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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

March 28th—April 3rd, 1985
Volume 20, Number 12

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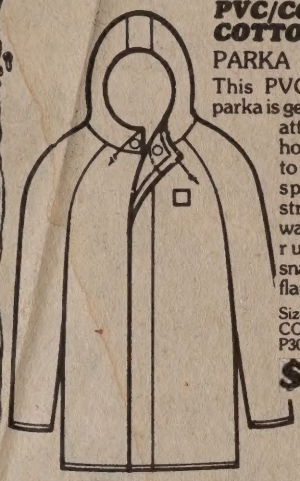

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COLORS: Yellow, Olive
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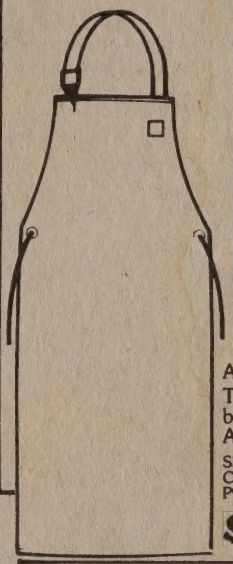

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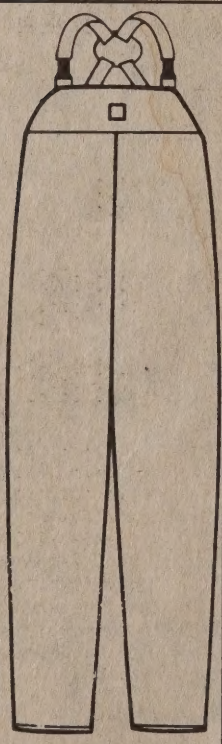

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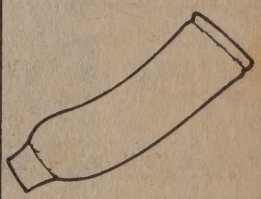

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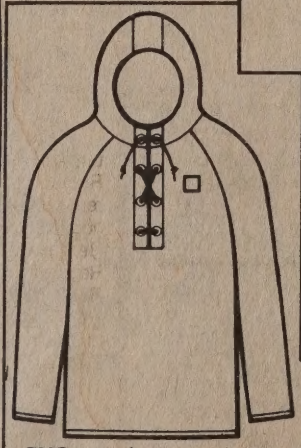

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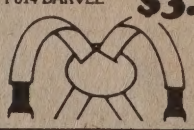

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 20, Number 12 March 28th, 1985

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Already battered and bruised, the striper is again embroiled in controversy. A recent study has revealed PCB levels well in excess of the new federal standards established last year and the fishery faces some potentially drastic changes as a result. There is more concerning this issue on page 12.

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EAST COAST STRIPED BASS NEWS

Attempts to repeal Maryland's historic striped bass fishing moratorium, are getting nowhere in that state's legislature. Three different bills with the common objective of reversing the fishing ban have been introduced by members of the Eastern Shore delegation on behalf of commercial watermen in their bayside districts, but one bill is already dead and the other two are given "little chance" of passage.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has built a strong biological case for its moratorium and Governor Harry Hughes is solidly behind this effort to protect Maryland's state fish. Two of the bills, therefore, attempt to get around this formidable alliance by passing fisheries management authority from the DNR into the hands of the General Assembly. One bill would have removed all authority to regulate the harvest of finfish and shellfish from the DNR. This received unfavorable committee reports in the assembly, where the Eastern Shore is outnumbered, and is effectively finished. The other, still pending, would require all DNR fishing regulations to be first submitted to the appropriate house and senate committees for approval. This bill is also expected to die an early death in committee.

A third initiative calls for lifting the moratorium if the state of Virginia and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), a joint Maryland/Virginia body administering shared waters of the Potomac, do not both enact moratoriums by November 1, 1985. Even if this bill passes the legislature, says one source, the governor would most likely veto it. He is not apt to back down because of inaction by Virginia or the PRFC, when he has been working so hard to pressure them into joining the moratorium

Elsewhere on the Atlantic Coast, state agencies are hustling to meet the coming test of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, passed by Congress last fall, which requires them to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) 55 percent catch reduction plan by June or face a federally-imposed moratorium. Virginia will close additional spawning river areas to bring it further in line with the 55 percent cut. And in January, it joined the PRFC in halting fishing in the Potomac River and its tributaries through May 31 to protect the 1982 year class of Chesapeake Bay juveniles, the only halfway respectable spawning year in recent memory.

In Rhode Island, the Marine Fisheries Council will meet in March to vote on new regulations which include: raising the minimum size limit from 18 to 24 inches; a two fish per day creel limit for anglers; and a closed season for netting from October 1 to October 31, a month when trap and gill netters make about half their annual catch. An outright ban remains a possibility if commercial netting interests on the Council conclude the regulations would put them out of business anyway; which is, in fact, what happened in 1983 when a 24 inch limit was first proposed for commercial fishrmen. That ban, which was to last three years, was lifted by the Council six months later.

North Carolina's Marine Fisheries Commission will hold public hearings in March and April on restrictions it will vote on at its May meeting. Among the options being considered are a 16 inch minimum size limit (up from 12 inches) in Albemarle Sound; various area closures to netting; and a lower bag limit for recreational fishermen, from eight fish a day to as few as three.

Meanwhile, the ASMFC is preparing to meet, probably in May, to decide whether to up the ante by endorsing stricter fishing regulations to reverse the striper decline. If the commission should conclude that a coastwide moratorium is needed, it would take effect a month later in June, under the new federal legislation.

ORVIS, NEW YORK CELEBRATING OPENING DAY

It's almost upon us, that long-awaited opening day and Orvis New York has planned a two-day-long celebration for the end of March. A program of fly-tying workshops, expert outfitting, tips from pros and a visit from a famous author starts this year's season in earnest. Nick Lyons Books is pleased to help with the celebration.

• On Thursday, March 28th from 11AM to 2PM, Len Wright will be on hand to autograph his just-published book **The Ways of Trout** (Nick Lyons Brooks/Winchester Press).

• Silvio Calabi, editor of Rod and Reel, will present slide shows on fishing Christmas Island on Thursday, March 29 at 2PM and on fishing in Alaska on Friday March 29th at noon.

• Tony Skilton, director of the Orvis Fly Fishing Schools, will demonstrate his unique fly tying techniques on Thursday, March 28th from 10-1 and on Friday, March 29th from 11-2.

• Chris Child, vice president of Frontiers International, will give a slide show on fly fishing around the world including Alaska, New Zealand, Argentina, and Iceland at noon on

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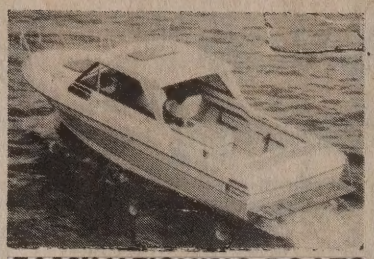

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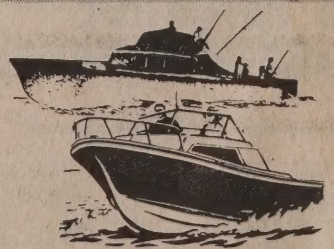

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Thursday, March 28 and at 10AM and 2PM on Friday, March 29th.

• Tom Rosenbauer, editor of the **Orvis News** and author of **The Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide** (Nick Lyons Books/ Winchester Press), will present a slide show on fishing in Vermont on Thursday, March 28th at 3PM and on fishing in the Rocky Mountains at 10AM on Thursday, March 28th and 3PM on Friday, March 29th.

Orvis New York is located on 45th Street between Madison and Vanderbilt.

OMB WANTS TO WITHHOLD NEW D/J MONEY

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has deleted $66 million in funds for the Dingell/ Johnson program from the Department of the Interior's Fiscal Year 1986 budget. Sport fishermen, who pay into the D/J fund through excise taxes on angling equipment and marine fuel, are rightfully outraged at OMB's move, charging it violates both the law and the public trust.

OMB says the Sport Fishing and Boating Enhancement Fund, created by 1984 legislation expanding the D/J fund to improve recreational fishing and boating opportunities, will get only $2 or 3 million more in 1986. The Sport Fishing and Boating Enhancement Committee, a coalition of groups set up to promote the expansion legislation and which now oversees its implementation, estimates that a $68 million increase should accrue to the fund under the expanded formula. This attempt to deny full funding to the program, the Committee told President Reagan in a January 7th letter, is in direct violation of the law (P.L. 98-369) he signed only last July.

OMB makes no justification for impounding the D/J money other than the implicit one that it is in line with the President's federal spending reductions. The Department of the Interior is standing solidly with the rest of the Administration (they "are going to be good soldiers," as one Interior official put it), and will not protest the decision.

The Administration's action is perplexing in view of the President's known advocacy of the user-pay concept in funding some government programs. D/J has been a model of this concept in action for over 30 years, with additional taxes paid by anglers going to support state fishing projects. So in addition to shortchanging sport fisheries programs in every state, this action would seriously undermine the public confidence in user fees, giving it good cause to view with suspicion every user fee proposal from now on as a general revenue tax; because that's where the unappropriated D/J money would go, into the general fund.

Rep. Walter Jones (NC), chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, has reportedly agreed to hold hearings on the OMB proposal this spring. The NCMC will join with other fishing and boating organizations in fighting this illegal action.

SURFSIDE 3 TUNA CLUB ANNOUNCES NEW SLATE FOR '85

The following officers for 1985 were elected at the Surf Side 3 Tuna Club's December meeting:

President: Pete Sindone; Vice President: Frank Sterlacci; Treasurer: Gregg Lombardi; Secretary: Woody Bradley; Corres. Secretary: Ray Wittman; and Sgt.-at-Arms: Bob Kutkowicz.

We would like to thank the outgoing officers for the fine job they did in 1984.

Application for memebership now being accepted through March 31, 1985. Any questions call Pete Sindone, 667-4057 after 6PM.

CAPTAIN ZAC TO SPEAK AT FFF FISHING CLUB

The FFF Fishing Club will present, as a guest speaker, Captain Zac Grossman of the Montauk charter boat "Mako Express." Captain Zac will show tapes of some of his memorable offshore trips with a question and answer period to follow. The date is Thursday, April 4th at 8PM at Chiusano's Restaurant, Railroad St., Greenlawn. Register in person or by phone: Huntington Prop and Tackle, New York Avenue, Halesite (Huntington) NY; 516-427-8774. A $5 registration and admission fee will be charged to offset costs.

THE NATIONAL FISHING LURE COLLECTORS CLUB

I am pleased to announce that the National Fishing Lure Collectors Club will hold thir 1985 National Convention in the Century Center, in South Bend, Indiana, July 4-6.

The National Fishing Lure Collectors Club is an international organization. It was founded in 1976 to foster an awareness of lure collecting as a hobby, to assist members in the location, identification, and values of fishing lures and other tackle collectibles, and to sponsor regional and national trading meetings—where members can meet to exchange lures, ideas, information and even tall tales.

A wide variety of lure and angling history is represented in the collections of NFLCC members, many of whom will display their specialized interest at the national meet. As an added point of interest, the Discovery Hall Museum, located in the Century Center, will feature its own collection of the historical South Bend Bait Company.

The NFLCC is a growing organization, with a membership that exceeds 1,400 in the United States, Canada, and Japan. Membership fees are $10 annually, for which each member receives subscription to the NFLCC Gazette—a quarterly newsletter that contains collector information on tackle company, lures, rods, reels and special feature stories. Each member

also receives access to the NFLCC Library, which contains a vast history of Patents, Sales Catalogs, Advertising items, early magazine articles and published books. A membership list is also supplied for use in trading with fellow members and for correspondence.

If you have further questions, or if you wish to join the NFLCC, please don't hesitate to contact Raymond L. Carver, Historian/Librarian, National Fishing Lure Collectors Club, 22325 B Drive South, Marshall, MI 49068.

HAMPTON SURF CLUB 1985 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Hampton Surf Fishing Club announces its 1985 membership drive.

The Hamptons Surf Fishing Club is a fraternal organization which promotes recreational fishing and conservation. Trophies and cash prizes are awarded and monthly fishing derbies with cash prizes are conducted.

We also provide a united voice to promote and maintain open access to beach and bays.

If you have a residence in Southampton or East Hampton Townships, we invite you to join.

Annual dues are $10 and a junior membership (under 16) is $2.

For more information contact: Hamptons Surf Club, c/o R. Perlow, 126 W. Tiana Rd., Hampton Bays, NY 11946.

Club awards for 1984:

First of the Year: striped bass—Robert Perlow; weakfish—Robert Perlow; bluefish—Larry Wojcik; and fluke—Robert Perlow.

Largest striped bass—Robert Perlow, 43.6; largest weakfish—Larry Wojcik, 12.8; largest bluefish—Richard Andrews, 20.7; largest fluke—Marie Webber, 5.1.

Junior Division trophy—Michael Tlockowski, fluke, 4 lbs. 12 oz.

President's Trophy (total weight of largest striped bass, weakfish, bluefish): Robert Perlow, 63 lbs. 4 oz.

HUMMINBIRD OFFERS SPRING REBATE ON FLASHERS

This spring, take advantage of an offer that only Humminbird can make!

From April 15 through May 15, 1985, Humminbird is offering a $50 rebate to customers purchasing Humminbird's Super Sixty, Super One-Twenty, Super Thirty II, Super Three-Sixty, Birdtrap with Super Sixty and In-Dash units.

To obtain the rebate, customers simply clip the coupon found in Humminbird's full-page ad running in the April issue of many major outdoor magazines. Then the customer mails the completed coupon, the warranty card for the unit, and the sales receipt to Humminbird, and Humminbird will send the customer a $50 rebate.

For more information on this exciting spring offer, contact your local Humminbird Dealer, or call Humminbird at 1-800-633-1468, toll free, for more details.

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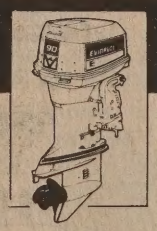

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BOATS FOR ANGLERS:

MIRRO-CRAFT DEEP FISHERMAN

by Pete Barrett

The open style aluminum utility skiff remains to this day as one of the most versatile boats for all kinds of fishing. From freshwater rivers and lakes to saltwater bays and the edge of the surf, aluminum skiffs do yeoman duty for thousands of anglers each season.

A perennial favorite is the Mirro-Craft Deep Fisherman series. Available in 2 lengths and 2 models, there is plenty to choose from and an almost unlimited number of unique personal customizing that can be done to create your own special boat.

The basic model is called the Deep Fisherman I with traditional thwart seats and no added options or accessories to get in the way. You can have your choice of either 14 feet or 16 feet in total length.

The Deep Fisherman II is also marketed in both 14 and 16 foot lengths but with added options and choices of deck, seat and consoles layouts.

While the II version does cost a bit more than the I, the options also make the boat more fishable and comfortable, and in our opinion, are well worth the added expense and time it takes to plan the options.

The basic Deep Fisherman II in the 14 foot version has the standard thwart stern seat and bow seat, but the center seat has been replaced with a pair of smaller seats that allow the angler to walk between them. This makes the boat fish like a much larger craft. The port seat can be used as either a live bait well, or if plugged as added storage for gear and life jackets.

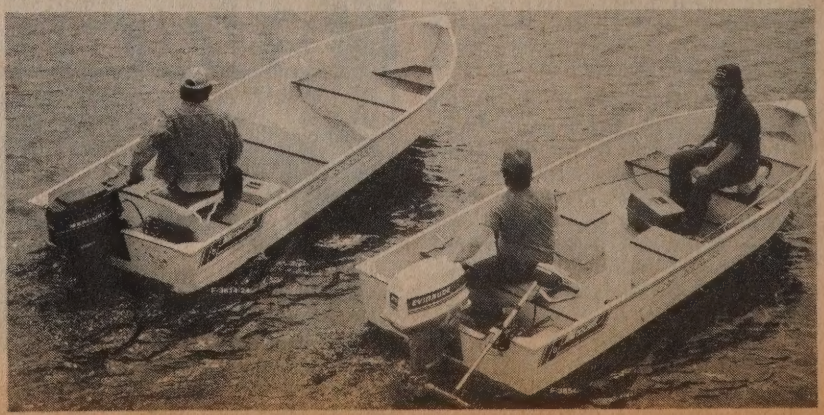
The marine grade plywood deck provides a flat surface for walking and adds to the comfort of the boat. The deck is protected with a vinyl covering that is very durable and helps to deaden sounds that might be transmitted through the hull to spook fish. Carpets are offered as an option.

A small side console can be added atop the starboard center seat if you prefer to sit while steering. While this may be more comfortable while slow trolling, anyone who has run aluminum boats for any length of time will prefer an extension tiller to steer while under way.

The 16 foot Deep Fisherman II takes up where the 14 left off. There is still the flat deck boards and standard stern and bow seat, but the center pair of seats has been replaced with a single starboard side seat set lengthways along the gun'l. It gives generous storage if plugged or it can serve as an enormous live well for bait or for keeping fish alive for weigh-in and then release.

Along the port side, a strip of flotation provides a handy surface to mount rod holders and up to six rods and reels can be stowed neatly. Additional rod storage could be added on the sides of the starboard seat, but be sure to use silicone to seal any screws you may use to attach the rod holders so the bait well doesn't leak onto the deck.

The bow deck is small but ade-



quate for anchor and lines, cushions and foul weather gear.

Swivel seats could be installed on both models on the stern and bow seats for more comfort while slow trolling for fluke or while plugging for bass.

There's room for an electric motor to be mounted at the transom or on a mounting bracket off the bow. Electronics can be mounted on the bow deck, transom seat or on the center seat if mounted so as not to interfere with the hinged cover.

Downriggers could be mounted on each stern quarter of the rear seat if you plan on deep fishing for lake trout, bass or trolling for inshore bluefish.

Space is provided aft of the stern seat for two 6-gallon fuel tanks, plus room for a battery to power your electronics. If you planned on an extensive run or a weekend to a remote area additional fuel tanks could be placed forward of the bow seat.

Overall quality of construction in the MirroCraft series appears very good. Hull bottom thickness is .064 marine grade aluminum and is standard for all the best aluminum skiffs. The paint scheme is pleasing with no excessive "deco" designs. The cream colored hull and contrasting brown and orange stripes look sporty, not gaudy.

The riveting was neat and seams were sealed, then painted over, so you can expect many years of leak-free fishing unless you badly abuse the boat.

All the aluminum trim such as railings, lift handles, bow plate and motor mounts are top-notch. Fastenings for seats, deck and live well are all very sturdy and appear to be able to withstand many years of fishing use.

In an age of hi-tech boats and big dollars, the Deep Fisherman I and II sparkle with tradition and value. There are a lot of fishermen now running bigger boats who still own an aluminum skiff for those early spring forays for flounder or for the kids to learn boat handling and fishing. There are even more anglers who aren't satisfied with the dazzle of bigger boats and who fish these skiffs because they are the best for the fishing they like to do.

The specifications given here are for the MirroCraft Deep Fishermen I with the 16 foot hull. The 14 is similar, but may vary slightly, so we suggest you check with your local dealer or write to MirroCraft for complete information.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	16"
Beam	64"
Transom Height	25"
Maximum Horsepower	40
Dry Weight	243 pounds
Fuel Capacity (portable)	12 gallons

Manufactured by: Mirro-Craft Northport, 39 North Harding Avenue, Gillet, Wisconsin 54124, (414) 855-2168.

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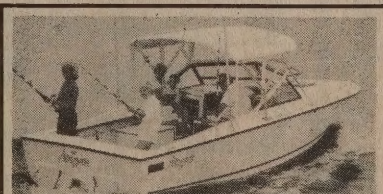

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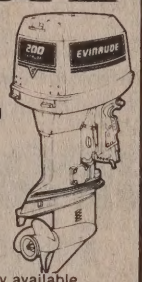

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ELECTRONICS WORKBENCH

by John Kungl

Dear John,

In a recent Electronics Workbench you recommended replacing a Loran antenna with a 102 inch fiberglass CB whip antenna. My dealer suggested a Shakespeare 4208 for my new Loran installation which is only 96 inches long. Do I need the extra six inches of antenna for the Loran to operate properly? Bob Cox.

Dear Bob,

Your dealer was correct in recommending the 96 inch antenna for your specific Loran unit. Many Loran manufacturers recommend this antenna; however, the Loran unit in the question was a Northstar 800 in which their instruction manual recommends a 102 inch whip. Most Lorans will operate with antennas in the 7 to 9 foot range, but it is always wise to check with your dealer for his recommendations on a specific Loran.

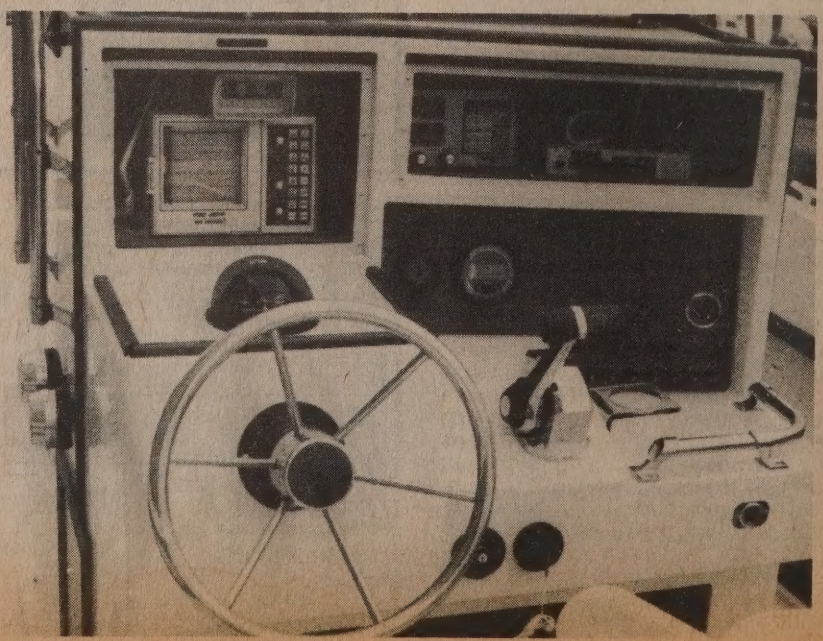
* * *

Dear John,

I seem to be having problems getting good readings from my depth finder due to turbulence on the hull of my aluminum center console. I have heard that you can mount a transducer directly to the inside hull and shoot through it the same as on a fiberglass boat. Can I do this successfully? Bill Marion.

Dear Bill,

This question is bound to open a real can of worms since several manufacturers have told me that this practice is definitely not recommended due to hull resonance with loss of power, and several others tell me that "glue down" is the preferred method of transducer installation. Hull turbulence on aluminum hulls is a problem with most transom mounted transducers, so it is best to mount them as far from the hull as possible. I know that Eagle Electronics has a transducer mounted on a kick-up bracket that allows the transducer to be out of the turbulence but will swing back if you hit an object in the water. If you want to use a glue down transducer, I would suggest you choose a unit which recommends this form of installation in their literature. I have recently received a brochure from the folks at Aqua-Meter which outlines their procedure for installing a glue down puck, and will send you a copy since it is too lengthy to include in this column. I would stress to anyone wishing to make transducer installations to contact the manufacturer or



their local marine electronics dealer before trying any unconventional mountings as they can save you a lot of time and grief on the water.

* * *

Dear John,

I recently switched from a flasher depth finder to a digital model. I used to be able to tell when I was over a school of fish, or even a single fish, by reading the flashes between the bottom and the surface. How can the digital instrument give me the same information? Gino Gordano.

Dear Gino,

One of the things to look for is a depth reading that changes abruptly to a much shallower reading, then returns to the original depth. For example, if you are reading 50' for a few minutes on the display and it suddenly changes to 23' for a few seconds, then returns to 50', you can be reasonably certain that something has passed under your boat. If your finder is equipped with an audible shallow alarm, you can set this at some depth between the bottom and the surface and passing fish will cause the alarm to sound off. Other things underwater, such as sediment and vegetation can also give these readings, but with a little practice you will be able to tell whether a lunker is really under the boat, or an old boot is floating by.

* * *

Dear John,

I am in the process of buying a graph recorder for my new 29' Topaz. Having read many manufacturers brochures on operating frequencies and cone angles, I've become totally confused. Can you help me figure out what to buy? Dave Goldblum.

Dear Dave,

Briefly stated, the higher the frequency, the better the resolution and definition in shallower water; and conversely, the lower the frequency, the better the penetration in deeper water. The cone angle determines the coverage of the underwater area that the recorder sees. Narrow beams make it easier to pinpoint objects such as wrecks and structure while medium and wide beams give wider search patterns and better fish arches. You did not tell me the type of fishing you intend to do, but I would assume a mixture of inshore and offshore with your type of boat. Taking into account both types of fishing, I would recommend a recorder with the lower operating frequency for good penetration at the Canyons and a second recorder with the higher operating frequency for inshore fishing. Both narrow and wide beam transducers would be useful on both units with switch boxes to choose between them. If your budget only allows for one unit, try to get a low frequency unit that specifies good operation in shallow water in their specifications and again go with the narrow and wide beam transducers.

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CONTEST	SPONSORS	DATE
Angling Award Program	The Fisherman/ Genesee Brewing	April 1 - November 30
State Salt Water Record Program	N.Y. State D.E.C./ The Fisherman	All Season
New York Surf Fishing Contest	The Fisherman	April 1 - November 30
Dupont Stren Casting Tourn.	Dupont Stren/ The Fisherman	May 11
Captree Flounder Derby	The Fisherman/ Captree Bait & Tackle	April 20 -21
Captree Fluke Derby	The Fisherman/ Captree Bait & Tackle	June 29 - 30
Moriches Fluke Derby	Moriches Bay Recreational Industries/ The Fisherman	July 27 - 28
Surf Bluefish Derby	The Fisherman/ Genesee Brewing/ Dupont Stren/ Captree Bait & Tackle	October 19 - 20

★ NEWS UPDATE ★

PCBs THREATEN STRIPER FISHERY

by Fred Golofaro

No other fish has stirred such controversy, been the source of so much media attention, nor attracted the attention of politicians, environmentalists, government agencies and industry the way the striper has. From Chesapeake Bay to Cape Cod, from Indian Point to Westway, and from Albany to Washington, D.C., battles have been waged over the striper.

The most recent stir, concerning PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) contamination of the striper, has a familiar ring to it. This time, however, the ramifications extend much farther than back in 1976 when commercial fishing in the Hudson River was banned, a restriction that remains in effect today.

A study of PCB levels in striped bass, conducted last season by the State Department of Environmental Conservation, has revealed that the contaminant level in bass from Long Island waters exceeds the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's maximum acceptable level of 2 parts per million. This is a new figure which went into effect last August, replacing the old standard of 5 parts per million. Already, under the new federal guidelines, bass harvested in New York waters may not be sold out of state. Figures made public by DEC last week showed mean concentrations of PCBs in New York Harbor bass at 9.49 parts per million. Western Long Island fish (not including the Harbor area) tested out at 4.26 while fish taken from east end waters were found to have levels of 2.92 ppm. The overall figure for the New York Marine District averaged out to 5.62 ppm. This data considered only fish above the legal 24 inch size limit. Figures released for bass under the 24 inch size limit showed significantly lower traces of PCB contamination, adding to the evidence that the larger the fish—the greater the risk of higher contamination levels.

What does all of this mean to the hordes of New York recreational anglers who worship the striper? The state is currently viewing four alternatives in reaction to the new data. They include a complete ban on the

Despite a growing number of anglers releasing their stripers, a total ban on the taking of these fish would deal an unnecessary blow to the recreational industry.

taking of stripers, a ban on commercial harvest and sale or a partial ban on the sale of these fish. A final option includes not taking any restrictive measures at this time but instead, issuing public health advisories. The last option would appear highly unlikely based on the active involvement of the F.D.A. and the New York State Health Department.

The move to a total ban on the taking of stripers by any means could deal a crippling blow to the recreational industry. While no one will say which direction the state is leaning at this time (a decision is expected to be made public by April 1st), it appears that sport fishermen have at least a couple of reasons to believe they will be excluded from the ban.

First, is a draft environmental impact statement published recently by DEC which recognizes a distinction between health risks concerning contaminants in fish. It recognizes as "voluntary," the risk taken by a recreational fisherman who has been warned through advisories of the dangers involved in eating certain fish. On the other hand, the plan defines as "involuntary," the risk taken by a consumer when purchasing fish through the marketplace without sufficient warning about contamination and without knowledge of the origin. By their definitions, it would seem that recreational angling for contaminated fish need not be curtailed.

Also, recreational anglers can be restricted in their harvest of contaminated fish by the imposition of minimal bag limits. A minimal possession limit would keep the industry viable—tackle shops would still sell "bass plugs," baits, etc., charter boats could continue booking bass charters, the guy or youngster who never caught a bass before would be able to keep that "first striper" if they so desired, that elusive 50 or 60 could still go on the wall, world records could continue to be broken, and the list goes on and on. Add to this the push to meet federal reductions in the striper harvest for New York, which will likely result in a bag limit of some sort, and the odds of a total ban inclusive of sport fishermen seems further diminished. And, the fact remains, that many recreational striper fishermen are already practicing self-imposed bag limits of one or two fish while others have been voluntarily releasing all but that "trophy cow" or an occasional fish for the table. Even fewer fish are likely to be kept for eating this season.

So, there is hope for recreational anglers, though the final decision has yet to be rendered. If I were a commercial man, I somehow would not feel as optimistic. And for those who have fought the long battles for striper management and feel on the verge of a great victory—albeit a bittersweet one, remember that it is this great and noble fish which carries the biggest scar. For the striper, there is no cure for PCB contamination!

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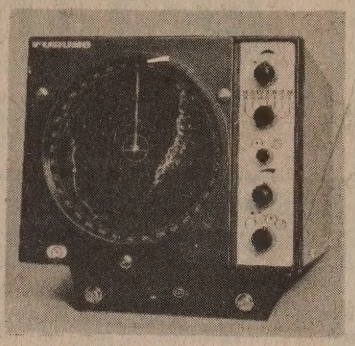

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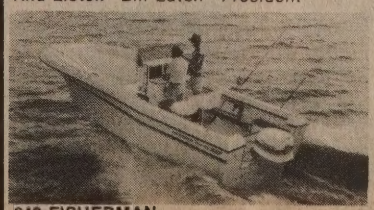

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HOLD OUT FOR HOLDOVERS

by Tom Schlichter

Long Island lakes and ponds produce some healthy holdover trout for those with the right approach.

The scene at Patchogue's Swan Lake was near bedlam as I parked my car along its western shore. A quick glance around verified that it must have been opening day as nearly 20 fishermen, some who had obviously cut school and others who undoubtedly had a touch of the flu or some other dreaded medical misery when last they had called the office, stood guard at various stations along the lake's muddy southern embankment. Rod in hand, I began making my way toward one of the less crowded stretches of lake front, inspecting each stringer or bucket as I passed. "How ya doing?" I asked one fisherman while squeezing between him and the tall reeds that lined the bank. "Same as every year," he replied, "...small fish, all small. Ain't good for nothin' but a snack." He pointed to a stringer of four small rainbow trout, each about seven or eight inches in length and shrugged.

Bob Schlichter examines a fine holdover brown taken from Swan Lake in Patchogue.

I continued on my way, asking no more questions, but still keeping an eye on each bucket I passed. Just about everbody had a fish or two, most similar in size to those on the aforementioned stringer. One angler, however, had two rainbows larger by four or five inches than any of the other fish I had noticed. Naturally, this is where I decided to set up camp.

It took only ten minutes or so before I managed to catch my first trout, a nine inch specimen, and in the next hour I would manage three more of roughly the same size. My neighbor meanwhile caught only one, but what a beauty: a fat 14 incher. Even though I had outfished him three to one in the time we had fished together, I must admit to a slight touch of jealousy as he lifted his three fish to go home.

The fact that this one particular fisherman had caught three trout larger than any other fish taken that day was no accident. He had, in fact, been fishing specifically for large fish. While most anglers, myself included, were dunking garden worms, night crawlers, cheeseballs, corn and the like this angler was using fairly large, live killies for bait. He purposely sacrificed the faster action he could have had by using more popular baits, for a shot at catching one or two big fish. As I'm sure many of you will agree, the effort was well rewarded. I learned a lot by watching that fisherman and since that time, not only have my opening day catches improved in size, but so has the size of my average trout throughout the season.

Early season trout do not necessarily have to be small fish. If you are willing to sacrifice some action, the chances are good that the size of your average fish can improve, too. To make the connection, though, it's necessary to start thinking "big fish" and to make a few adjustments in your fishing thoughts and style.

First, get rid of the notion that there are nothing but small trout in our local lakes. There are fish in every stocked lake leftover from last year and even the year before. In addition, not all the trout stocked are fingerlings. A few larger fish are sometimes mixed in. A few years back, I watched as several 15 inch plus trout were placed in Sayville's Mill Pond along with several hundred smaller specimens. In the first week of the season last year, I watched as a 4½ lb. rainbow trout was taken from this lake by a 12-year-old.

Next, dispense with the idea that small baits are necessary to take trout. That's "small fish" thinking. Medium sized baits and lures will certainly decrease your overall score,

but are sure to increase the average size of each fish you catch. Don't be afraid to use a two or three inch killie, a medium sized minnow imitation, or a 3/4 to 2 ounce spoon.

Using the lightest tackle practical is another step you can take to tempt those larger fish. Heavy leaders and lines are obvious danger signs to wary, larger fish. Remember, they didn't get to be big by being dumb. Four to six pound test will get you more hookups. Whenever possible, tie your hook or lure directly to the line without using a leader and stay away from hardware. Snaps, swivels, even heavy leaders, detract from lure and bait action and are better left in the tackle box in this type of fishing.

Try to concentrate your fishing efforts in relatively deep water. Particularly effective on most lakes is the area directly in front of dammed outflows. This water is generally deeper than most on any lake or pond and can be counted on to have some current. Large trout like to take up feeding positions just ahead of these areas and wait for the flow to bring tidbits of food right to their noses. Generally, they will stay just a few inches from the bottom, so it's important to get your baits down whenever possible. Of course, locations where streams empty into a lake are also a good bet. The flowing water here usually gouges out a small hole and, especially in the early morning hours, trout move in to feed.

Bear in mind that a lake need not be large to produce big fish. In fact, discounting Connetquot State Park and the Nissequogue River, my favorite trout pond is Swan Lake in Patchogue, a rather small body of water even for Long Island. This lake regularly produces 12 to 14 inch rainbows and browns, most taken by shorebound anglers on the southern side but a few cartop boaters do a good job along the edge of the marsh which borders much of the west bank. Two lures that work particularly well here are 3½ inch Rebels or Rapalas in a rainbow trout finish and medium sized golden spoons. The trout finished lures probably owe much of their success to the stocking of fingerling rainbows which, I imagine, the larger trout feed on as they are introduced to the lake. These lures are best worked at a medium to fast retrieve and seem to produce here primarily in the early morning or late evening hours. The golden spoons can be effective all day long if fished slow and deep. I find that they work best on overcast days when the threat of rain is imminent.

To wrap things up, patience is probably the most important ingredient necessary to take larger trout. It takes a lot of determination not to switch to smaller, more productive lures and baits when everyone else seems to be catching a few fish. But if you hold your ground, sooner or later it will pay off. So be sure to get out there this spring armed with larger baits, lighter line and the determination to hold out for those holdovers.

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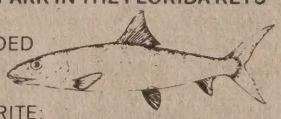

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FISH CLEANING MADE EASY

by Matt Ahern

Cleaning your day's catch need not be the dreaded chore many anglers make it out to be.

Right now as I look out the window, snowflakes are coming down and it is a far cry from carefree fishing days (although old Matt has been known to sit out there in a skiff during such weather). Soon, good old Freddie Flounder will be shedding his winter blanket of mud and looking about for a tasty morsel here and there.

Are you ready for Freddie, as Al Capp used to say?

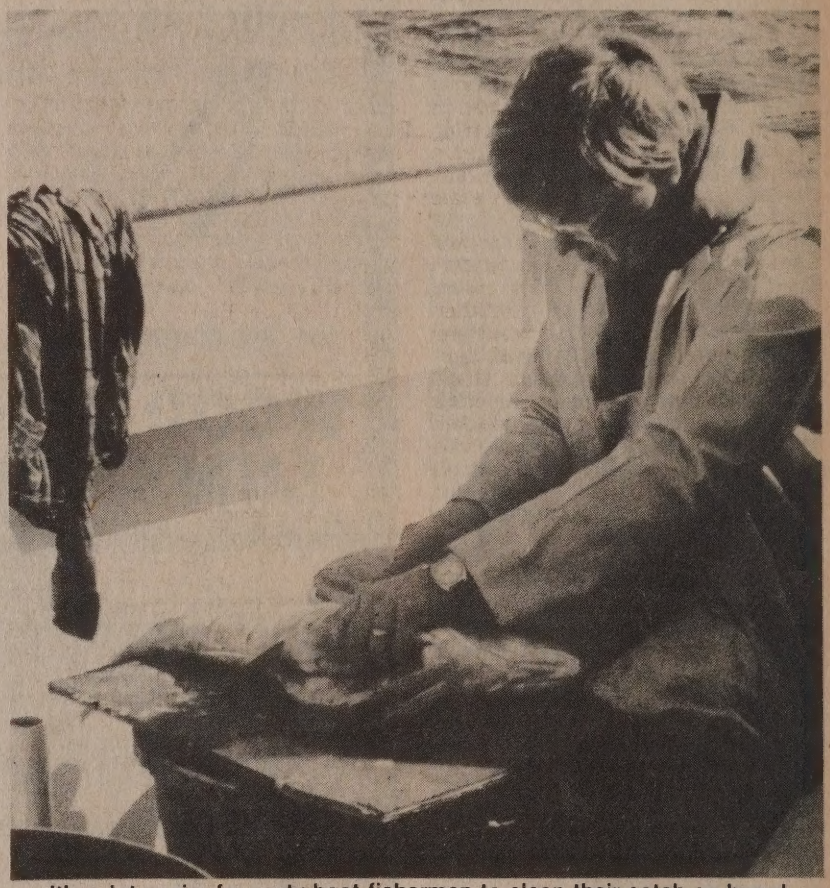
I hope so, but before those "carefree" fishing days arrive, have you given thought to how you're going to take care of all those fish you'll catch this year? Again, I hope so. Are you going to give those fish away because you don't know how to clean them? Are you going to deprive yourself and your family of many mouth-watering meals because you feel you lack the necessary fish-cleaning skills?

Suppose I were to tell you of a fish cleaning method that would enable you to clean each of your fish with an average time of 10 seconds—perhaps less—would you be interested? Would such a method ease your painful thoughts? Well—let's see what can be done to alleviate the often tedious chore of fish cleaning.

If you are interested in flounder filleting, let me say that this has been covered in detail in various issues and space allotments do not allow me to repeat at this time. If you are interested, and you should be with the flounder season at hand, see Issue #6, Vol. 19 and the article "The Art of Flounder Filleting." You'll find photos and step-by-step instruction to make flounder filleting a snap.

If you've never cleaned fish before, or cleaned so few that you feel you are truly a babe in the woods, some consideration must be given to the proper tools. A sharp butcher's boning knife is often used by experienced fishermen and such a knife is hard to beat. Any similar type knife will do, but save yourself a headache and shun those kitchen rejects. Then add a good scaler and you're in business. Forget those "hunting" knives with a scaler running along its edge. Make sure your scaler has a raised, offset handle to avoid contact with sharp-finned fish such as porgies, sea bass, and blackfish. (If you want to keep your sanity, don't attempt to scale blackfish. I'll describe a better way in a few moments.)

Use a cutting board whenever possible. If you intend to clean your fish at home, make sure to use plenty of newspaper to catch loose scales, drippings, etc. You-know-who will be thankful too.



It's a lot easier for party boat fishermen to clean their catch on board.

The above is one reason why I always attempt to clean my fish before I arrive home. (Although there are times when I'd rather do the cleaning at home, such as when I want to take time needed in order to investigate the fishes' stomach contents, to check what they've been feeding on, etc.)

Most fishing stations have facilities for fish cleaning and fishermen should take advantage of this when possible. You may feel a little pooped when you first arrive back at the station, but you'll still have energy left to clean your catch. It is when you arrive home, take a shower, have supper and relax a bit, that the thought of cleaning a pile of fish takes on a discouraging aspect. Then the job truly becomes a chore.

As for most of the party boats I've been on, the only fish-cleaning difficulty I've come across was finding a fish board on which to do the work. It seems someone always beats me to those which are available. I solved this, though. I cut a piece of Masonite a half inch smaller in dimension than my homemade tackle box. This handy board is kept on the bottom of the tackle box and carried with me on all my trips. It is then a simple matter to convert the tackle box into a makeshift table and clean my fish without concerning myself about locating a fish board. Works fine.

The last time I wrote a similar fish cleaning article, I received a letter from a reader informing me that the skipper of the party boat he'd been on the previous weekend wouldn't allow his passengers to clean their fish while on board. Another irate fisherman wrote and said that scaling

wasn't allowed and that only mates were permitted to clean fish. This, to me, is a crying shame because, believe it or not, many party boat addicts consider fish cleaning on board as part of their fishing day. It is not surprising to me that such disgruntled fishermen do not patronize those boats again.

I can, however, sympathize with these skippers. Many times I have witnessed careless, unthinking fishermen cut into canvas-covered moldings in their zeal to finish the job. If these areas are not noticed and quickly repaired, the affected spot soon becomes a candidate for rot—and rot on any part of a boat costs money to repair. Believe me, I know. All I can say in this respect is not to hold it against the skipper. (As for allowing mates to gut and behead your catch without first scaling—don't! When you arrive home and attempt to scale those fish...well, just don't.)

Should you be aboard a party boat whose skipper does not permit fish cleaning, do the next best thing. Thoroughly wash your fish and then pack them carefully so that when you arrive home, they will be free of odor-causing slime. Blackfish will present a problem here; I've never found a satisfactory method to keep blackfish slime-free, except to allow a free circulation of air and to keep them as cool as possible.

Before starting your fish cleaning, it is always best to wash each fish (preferably in saltwater) because those minute grains of sand, grit, and other foreign matter soon dull the keenest edge of the finest knife. A word of caution: should you find it necessary to wash your fish in freshwater, do so quickly. **Don't** let them soak. No more than a few seconds for each fish should be the watchword—especially does this apply after you have completed the cleaning and intend to dunk each fish for a final rinse. Freshwater quickly softens the delicate flesh of saltwater fish and that ambrosia-like flavor is soon lost, whereas just the opposite applies when handling freshwater fish.

The fish cleaning method that follows can be used on any round fish—round fish meaning ling, whiting, mackerel, weakfish, sea bass, porgies, blackfish, etc., as opposed to flounder and fluke. Because of the difficulty in removing scales from the tough hide of blackfish, it is best to skin these to preserve your sanity. We'll get to that method shortly. Incidentally, when party boat fishing for blackfish and the mate is not permitted to scale your fish, that's okay because it doesn't matter in this instance—you're going to skin them, anyway.

Let's use a ling to describe the method I use to clean a fish in ten seconds, and let's assume it has already been scaled and washed. All that's needed is to make two swift passes with the knife and the job is finished. First, grasp the fish firmly by the head, then insert the knife completely through the fish just behind the pectoral fin. This is the fin at the middle of all fish near the gill cover. Angle the knife towards the vent and slice through and out. This leaves you with the intestines and rib cage in one piece. Slice off the head and the job is finished.

Now, what's all the fuss about fish cleaning? If you can't clean a fish with that method in ten seconds, I don't know what to say. Once you get into the swing of doing it, you can clean a hundred ling in no time—and a hundred of any other fish mentioned just as fast.

Except blackfish.

It seems everything about blackfish is tough and its scales and skin are no exception. Sure, some fellows do scale blackfish and most of these fishermen do so because they don't know an easy method to get that tough hide off. My method is simple, but not as simple as it sounds. To me it is duck soup, but only because I've been skinning blackfish with this method nearly 60 years. It does take time when compared to other fish cleaning.

First, take your blackfish and complete the instructions just mentioned. Then make a cut through the skin on each side of the dorsal fin and along each side of the anal fin. (These, besides the tail, are the only fins left on the fish after head and innards are removed.) Make a slight cut at the back of each fin and across the tail and with the aid of a rag or pliers, lift each one out with a strong pull—except the tail, of course.

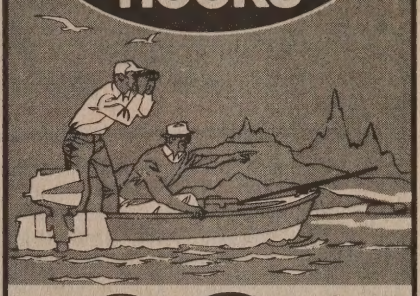
Peel away a little skin at the shoulder, enough to give you a firm grip with the rag or pliers and then remove the hide with a steady pull. Once the skin is started, it is easy to remove, and when you get the hang of it, it should take no longer than two minutes for each fish.

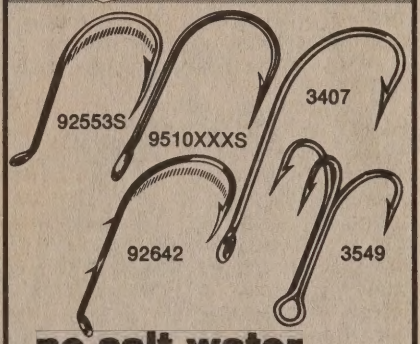
You can also remove those finger-stabbing fins on sea bass and porgies this way. Whether you leave the tail on your fish is a personal preference and depends chiefly on how large the fish is.

Some fishermen enjoy stuffed mackerel and it is easy enough to prepare for a favorite recipe. Simply remove the head at the pectoral fin and slice along the back to the gut cavity—but don't go through. Open the fish and remove the intestines and wash. You now have two hinged pieces of mackerel called a "butterfly" in commercial markets. This used to be a common way of preparing mackerel, but it isn't seen much today. When served this way, if often brings fancy prices in elite restaurants.

So—that's all there is to fish cleaning. It isn't a bit difficult. It only becomes so when fishermen use heavy-handed methods. Take time in the beginning, use care handling that sharp knife, and the next time you bring home a batch of fish, you won't have to look upon them with that proverbial jaundiced eye.

MUSTAD SALT WATER HOOKS





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WHERE COD IS KING

by Capt. Bill Ricca

Montauk, with its year round reputation as a cod producer, is at its best now!

For many years, Montauk was known for its codfish. Cod were taken throughout the entire year in numbers and of an average size that is almost beyond our present day comprehension. What was really outstanding about the codfishing of yesteryear, was the fact that you only had but a short ride to the fishing grounds. Fish were taken as close as Washington Shoals, Shagwong, the Jack Grounds, Cerberus Shoal and the Frisby Grounds. A 45 minute run in a 7 knot per hour boat was a long haul. Party boats came in early with their customers burlap sacks bursting with cod. Day after day, spring, fall and winter, this action repeated itself. At times, especially in the month of May, schools of large pollock would chase bait right in the wash and become easy prey for surfcasters using block tin lures.

A trio of Montauk anglers with typical spring run cod.

How times have changed! While cod are still caught in good numbers, nothing can match the years gone by. I'm really not qualified to speculate on the reasons for the difference in the number of cod available now but if I was to list the main reasons for their decline, I'd have to list, right at the top, overfishing. Tremendous fishing pressure was brought to bear on these fish by both recreational and commercial fishermen. However, the most damage was probably caused by foreign fishing fleets that raped our coastal waters prior to the creation of the 200 mile limit in 1976. Prior to the enactment of this law, foreign vessels whose technology was far superior to our own, put tremendous pressure on not only the cod, but the pollock, flounder, red and silver hake and just about any other ground fish that they could drag up in their nets. These fleets consisted of scores of ships of various types from many countries. They fished for up to 6 months or even a year at a time for 24 hours a day. They not only caught the fish but processed it at sea as well. These ships were so large and numerous that at night, they gave the appearance of a city in the way they lit up the nighttime sky.

One of the prime fish which they took was our cod. Thank goodness the 200 mile limit put a stop to this. However, it has had a slight reverse effect with respect to our fishing. During the period just prior to and subsequently after the implementation of the 200 mile limit, our own commercial fleets saw that, in order to compete with their foreign counterparts, they had to modernize their own equipment. New, faster, larger and better equipped vessels were ordered. So, while on one hand we got rid of the main problem, we now improved a smaller but very efficient commercial fleet of our own.

At the same time, sport fishermen, charter boat and party boat operators also modernized. We are now able to purchase sophisticated electronics such as radar, Loran C, graph recorders, etc., to improve our chances of success. So, while the groundfish of our area (cod in particular) have been spared the threat of

near extinction from foreign fleets, our own rod and reel and net fisheries are exerting continued pressure on the cod.

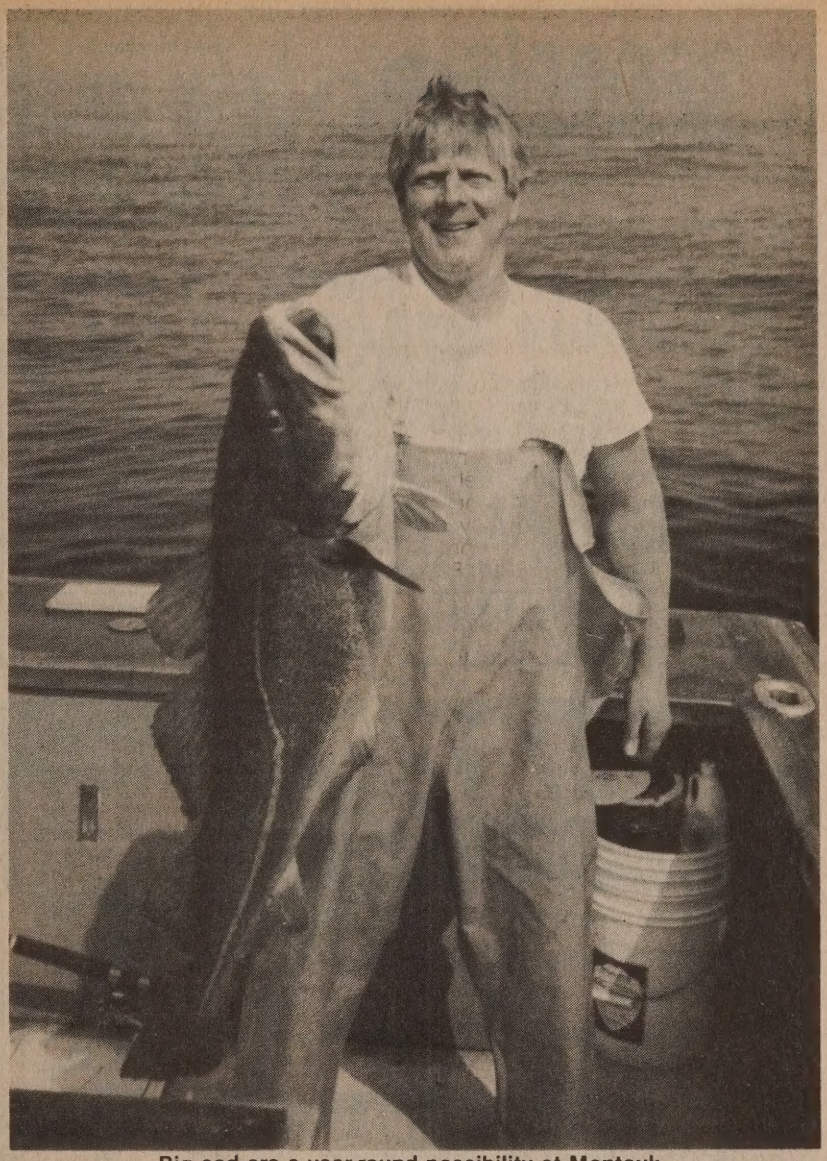
As has been seen over the last eight years or so, since the implementation of the 200 mile limit, the codfishing has been coming back. Not by leaps and bounds, but nevertheless it has been coming back. I doubt that we will ever see the catches that were made 20-odd years ago, but barring any unforeseen blight or sudden acceleration of pressure on them, the cod should continue to flourish.

At Montauk, cod can be taken all year-round. The spring and late fall are prime times for inshore fishing with cod available the year-round at Coxes Ledge and on certain offshore wrecks.

Cod are bottom feeders and will feed on just about any natural bait. The most preferred is the skimmer clam. Certain artificials such as diamond jigs and surgical tubes often produce very well when the cod are feeding on baitfish such as sand eels. Codfish tackle at Montauk usually consists of a 7 to 8 foot medium to medium heavy action rod with a reel such as a Penn Squidder, Penn Jigmaster, Penn 112H, Daiwa 50H or Daiwa 30H. Thirty pound test line is sufficient enough or, if you feel that you want heavier, some fishermen do go to 40. I prefer 30 lb. as it allows me a better feel for the bottom and allows me to use lighter sinkers. As for rigging, I use a standard two hook setup; one hook tied about 3½ feet above the other. Each hook is snelled on an 18 inch length of 50 lb. leader material which, in turn, is tied to a length of 50 lb. mono which acts as my main leader by way of a dropper loop. I prefer straight 50 lb. mono as my main leader because it is more pliable and easier to work with than the stiffer and larger diameter leader material. My sinker is affixed to the rig (about 14'' below the bottom hook) also by using a dropper loop. In this way, I can change sinkers as the tide and sea conditions warrant. At times 8 oz. will hold, but in most cases 10 to 14 ounces are necessary. I prefer beak style gold hooks in sizes that range from 3/0 to 7/0. Hook sizes vary according to the available size of the fish to be caught. In deep water where large fish are expected, I go with a larger sized hook. However, in very shallow water, or when it is determined that most all of the available fish are on the small size, I'll switch to a smaller sized hook.

Most cod are taken on the high hook. For this reason, when I'm fishing a particularly rough piece of bottom, or a wreck, I'll only use the top hook. In this way I keep snags to a minimum.

At Montauk, cod can be fished by either drifting or by anchoring. When the cod are stacked up over a particular structure or wreck, it is best to anchor. The best method to accomplish this is to have at the ready a marker buoy that can be put over the side to mark the exact location of the piece of bottom which you feel holds the fish. This, of course, predetermines that you have previous knowledge that the cod are in fact there.



Big cod are a year-round possibility at Montauk.

Just about the only way you can be sure of this is to first be in the correct general area, then move around slowly with your graph recorder on until either fish seen or a particular bottom structure or wreck is located. Once this is accomplished you should drop over your marker buoy. In addition, if you are so equipped with a Loran, you should make a written notation of the numbers. In this way, you have them for future reference if for some reason your marker buoy does not hold or if you are so intent on setting up that you don't forget to jot them down later. Once you are sure that your marker buoy is in fact holding in the about the right spot, you should determine which direction the tide and/or wind is moving. You should go uptide of your marker and prepare to drop your anchor. I'm presupposing that you have enough anchor line with an anchor of enough weight for the depth of water that you are in to allow it to hold bottom. For this reason, you should always carry a sufficient length of anchor line. Only you know your boat, only you can estimate just how far uptide you must go before you can let go with your anchor.

Once you drop anchor, back off slowly in the direction of your market buoy. At the same time, you should have an eye on your recorder and you should also be checking your Loran numbers looking for the same structure you saw before on the same set of numbers. Don't be in too much of a hurry, make sure your anchor is in and most of all don't play out your anchor line too fast and run your boat too slow so the line gets caught in your prop or your rudder. As you drift back on anchor towards the buoy you should be ready to snug it up as you near the buoy. In most cases you will

(Continued on next page.)

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probably encounter the piece you are looking for on the upside side of your buoy. This is caused by the fact that it took a minute or so for the weight on the buoy to hit and hold the bottom and the current would have caused it to drift back a bit. This illustrates the importance of recording the Loran numbers as soon as possible. If you find that you are not in the proper spot, it may be necessary to either let out additional anchor line, pull up a bit or in some cases, re-anchor all over again. This method of anchoring can be used for just about any type of bottom fishing that you do where it is important that you end up over a particular piece of bottom.

The other method of fishing for cod is to drift. This is simply first finding the fish or the proper bottom structure, running uptide, shutting off your engine and drifting back over the prospective area. Here also, it is wise to put over a marker buoy when the proper location is found. In this way you can visually locate the hot area and can judge just when to start and end your drift so you can be over the productive area for the longest period of time.

As I mentioned earlier, besides using bait (always fresh bait) you can use diamond jigs. Diamond jigs are chrome-plated cylindrical shaped lead lures that, when worked properly, resemble small fish at or near the bottom. In deep water where there is virtually no light to reflect off the jig, it will appear as just about any small fish fluttering along the bottom. It could be a sand eel, small porgy, bergall, conger eel, butterfish, whiting, ling or just about any other small fish that may inhabit the area. Cod are not particular when they are feeding. They will eat just about anything smaller than themselves that swims by. Surgical tubes are often tied a few feet above the jig and in many cases will outfish the jig. This is particularly so when the cod are feeding heavily on sand eels. The size of the jig varies with the depth of the water, pound test of your line and the speed of the drift. You should have available jigs that weigh from 4 to 12 ounces. In most cases, I've found 6 and 8 ounces do the job.

Jigging for cod is different than for bluefish in that the jig must be worked much slower and in most cases fished only in the lower 25 percent of the water you are fishing in. It is very rare that cod will come up more than 15 or 20 feet off the bottom to feed.

While codfishing is off from the big years of the past, there is still some very fine fishing in store for anywone who wants to put the time in. Most of the fish taken nowadays run 6 to 20 lbs., but there are plenty of fish in the 30 to 50 lb. range to make things interesting. Also, you can take heart that in the early spring of 1984, an 800-odd pound cod was taken at Montauk. This old soaker is currently recognized as the official New York State record the species.

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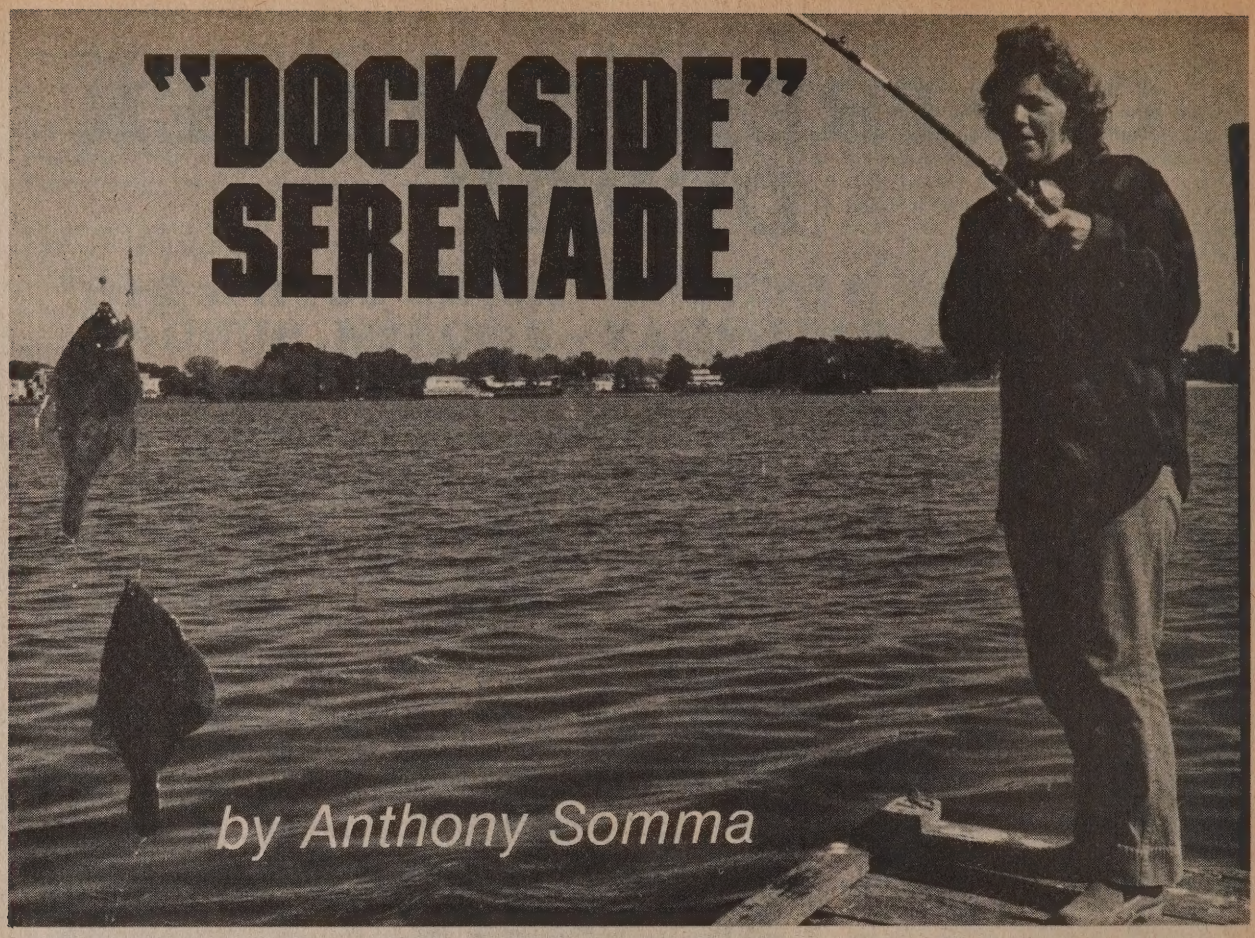

by Anthony Somma

Being "blown out" doesn't necessarily mean the end of a planned fishing trip. Good action may be closer at hand than you think.

I would not be writing this article if we called it quits one day in the spring of 1983 when the weather suddenly turned sour. Instead we decided to make the most of a "blowout."

The day started early (5AM). I woke, looked out the window and saw blossoming dogwood tree leaves stirring gently in a light, westerly breeze. Not a cloud in the sky. A beautiful spring morning with sunrise only an hour away. Plenty of time for a quick shower and breakfast before I'm off to Dunkin' Donuts and Staten Island Bait and Tackle.

Everything moves along like clockwork. I'm out of the house in less than half an hour. The donuts are still hot when I pull my Scout into the tackle shop's parking lot. Their aroma makes my mouth water. While John's son gets my bait, John and I discuss yesterday's fishing. In less than five minutes, I'm off to the "Cookie-duster" with a good supply of sandworms, mussels, fiddlers and frozen clam chum, besides the donuts. It's still dark as I turn into Great Kills Park. The first signs of dawn cause my expectations to rise. I picture a mixed bag of one and two pound flounder and five pound blackfish coming over the rail. We'll have most of the outgoing tide—perfect for flatties and blacks.

I pull into the marina parking lot and am greeted by Joe. He beat me to the boat again. As a matter of fact, Joe's always the first one up and ready to go. But that's another story.

The coffee is made, the flybridge canvas stowed, the bilge is airing and the rods are rigged and ready for action. Joe must have arrived at five to get the boat ready. I sniff for gas fumes and finding none, start the engine. While the engine warms, Joe pours coffee—just what the doctor ordered for a brisk morning.

As we discuss the day's fishing possibilities, we unconsciously start speaking louder and louder to hear ourselves over the racket made by sailboat rigging slapping against masts. We're so caught up in our plans, we hardly notice the "Cookie-duster" rocking in her slip and the spray dampening her windows. We are ready to push off. I climb to the flybridge and look around. The main dock is soaked. It looks like a snake as wind and waves pound the 30 foot floating dock sections against the marinas main pilings.

Another trip blown out. Pack up and go home? Not today! There has to be fish in the marina. We shut the engine, store the boat rods for another day and crack out light spinning gear. The target's the same, but smaller: 3/4 pound flounder and 2 pound blackfish. We pick up bait, rods and tackle and move down the dock to a productive looking spot where the kids like to fish.

Rigging is simple: a #8 bait holder hook on a 5 inch leader tied directly to a 1/2 ounce bass sinker. The sinker is tied directly to the main line, 10 lb. test mono, via an improved clinch knot.

Joe is rigged up, baited and in the water bouncing the light sinker off the bottom to attract a flounder. I am still rigging up after preparing the chum pot, lowering it into the water and pounding the bottom to attract our finned friends. I'm tying on the sinker when Joe lets out a whoop. Hands high, rod bent, he cranks the reel handle. He's not making much headway—the fish darts to the right, to the left, down, up, to the side—then nothing. The fish is off. "That was no flounder," says Joe, reaching for a one inch slice of sandworm. While Joe impales the worm slice on his hook, I start to lower my rig. On the way down, I receive a solid strike. I engage the bail and the light spinning rod takes an impressive bend. I'm in! The fish darts to the left, to the right,

under the dock. I start to make headway. The fish is coming up. Silver sides flash. Could it be? A few seconds later, a 2 lb. porgy is flopping at my feet. While I'm removing the hook from the fish, Joe is in again. Soon our second 2 lb. porgy is landed. Two hours later, with 26 one to two pound fish in our bucket, the fishing comes to a complete halt. Try as we might—no more porgies.

We crack a few mussels and spread them around. We add more chum to the pot and pound the daylights out of the bottom. Finally a nibble and a small flounder is returned. We are getting restless, the unexpected porgy blitz spoiled us. A few more "throwback" flounder are caught and released. Then Joe gets a hard hit. It's almost dead low tide. Joe's rod is pumping. He keeps the fish off the bottom and after what seems like a few minutes of give and take lands a small blackfish. I get a few nibbles, but can't connect.

Let's switch over to blacks, says Joe. We move off down the dock to a slip where a 22 foot power boat sank six years before. From past experience we know where the collapsed cabin is and where we hope all the fish are. We switch to fiddler crabs and start fishing between the dock and a moored 32 foot Pacemaker. The action starts off slow with most fish being released because they are too small. Joe moves to the bow of the wreck where he is fishing in 15 feet or so of water. He gets a hard hit and after a struggle, up comes a 3 lb. blackfish. I may be slow, but not dumb. After Joe lands two more fish of the same size, I join him and fish the other side of the sunken boat's bow. Down I go. Just as I take up the slack line—I'm in. Old chisel-tooth is giving me a run for my money. What a ball! Three pound blackfish on light spinning gear. The action continues until the tide starts to move and then comes to a screeching salt. We break for lunch and a well earned rest. Our catch: 26 porgies and 23 blackfish.

We had a great day, caught fish and learned a few lessons. When the weather turns bad, we no longer call it a day. We look for alternatives like trying a sheltered area. When a hot-spot turns cool, we now move to a new spot. We've found fantastic fishing in the most unlikely places.

I was telling the guys about the great porgy fishing and an old-timer told us that it wasn't unusual. "Up until the mid-60s porgies came to Great Kills Harbor each spring to spawn." We did get out the next day, but compared to the prior day's dock fishing, it was slow. We never saw a blackfish and only picked away at the flatties. As the season progressed, we resorted to fishing the docks a few more times because of bad weather or poor fishing on the outside. I don't remember being disappointed.

I hope you recall this story the next time a trip looks like a blowout. Rather than pack up and go home, give fishing from dockside a try.

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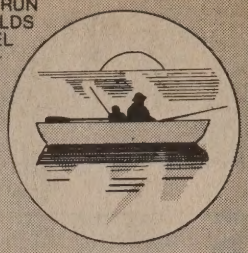

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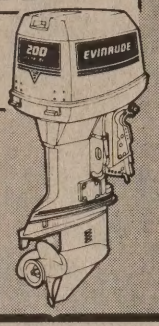

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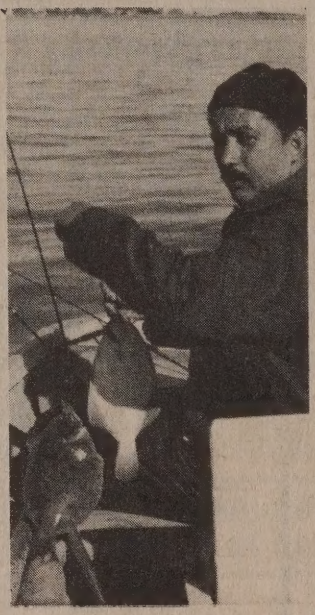

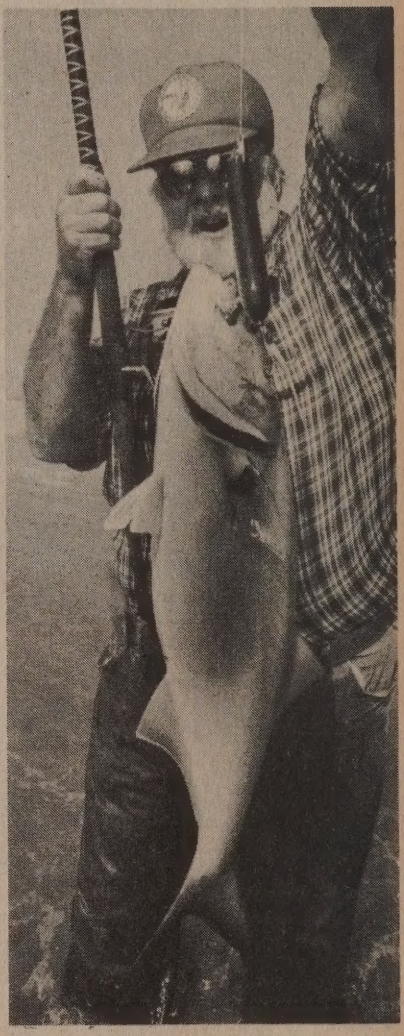

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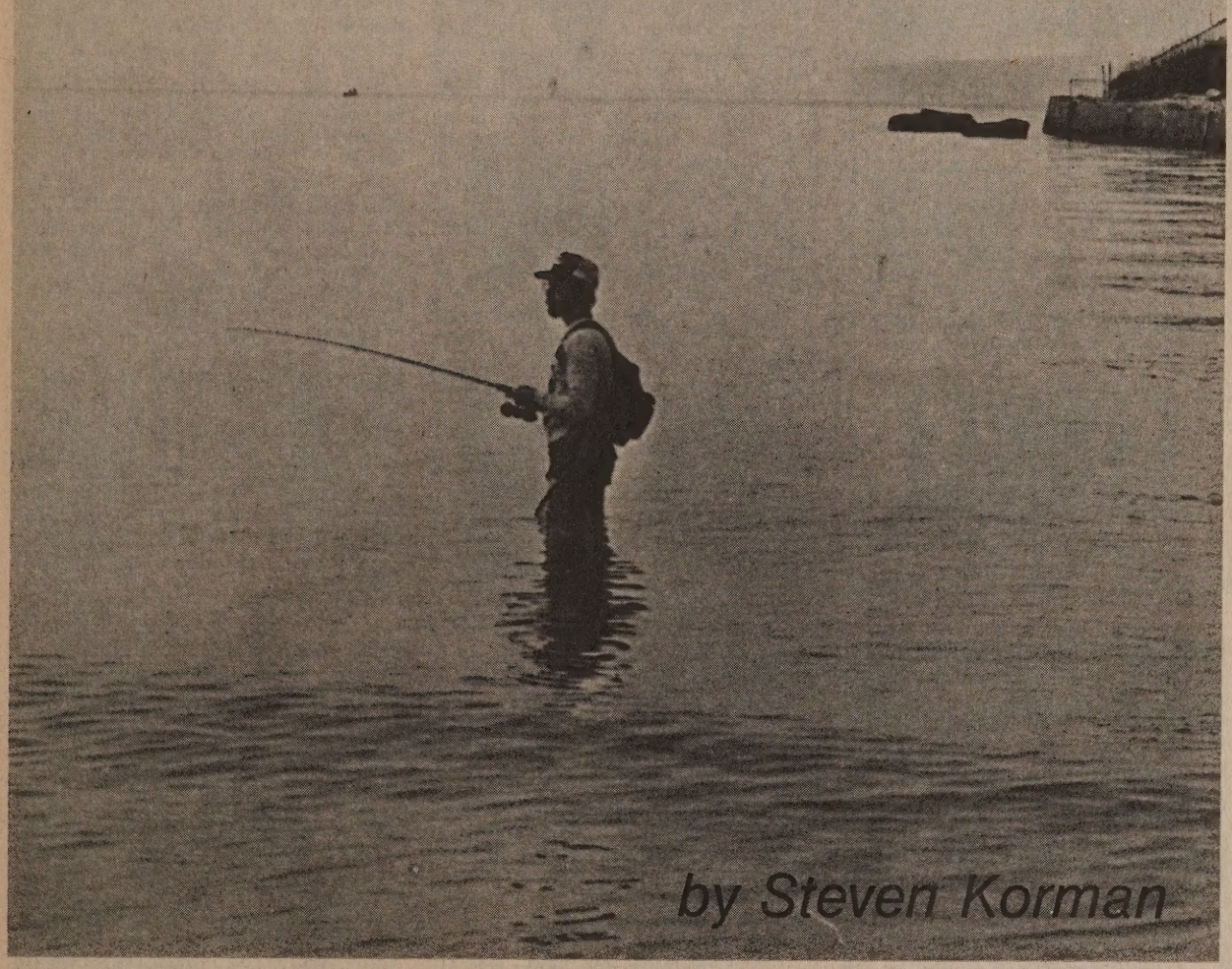

by Steven Korman

"Honey, your friends are at the door..."

"Darn," I muttered to myself, as I quickly closed my tackle box and thrust it into my closet. My reel, which I had just cleaned and oiled, was carefully tucked under some clothes on my desk chair.

"Tell them to come in, Ma...oh, come on in, guys."

They did and when they shut the door behind them, I guessed what the evening's plans were.

"What's up?" I asked, "You guys headin' to the Boulevard tonight?"

"Yeah, in a couple hours. The boys are getting a keg, or maybe two, depending on how many people are gonna be hangin'. It's prb'ly gonna be down by the tracks. You into it?"

"Man, I don't know. It may be spring on the calendar, but it's still gonna be cold as hell down there—too cold to drink beers. I don't know if I'm into it."

"It'll be plenty warm once we've had a few" was the reply, accompanied by a wink. "'sides, there's nothin' else to do. We seen the only movies around worth seein', and there's no parties happenin' tonight. I'm sure you ain't got nothin' better to do! Why don't you just come along?"

"I don't know, man, I'm just not into it. There's an exhibition game on tonight—I'll prob'ly just hang out an' watch that." They gave me one of their queer looks and shook their heads.

"Ya mean you'd rather stay in your house than go out on a Friday night? Well, heck—do what ya want. Let's get outta here."

"Give me a call tomorrow," I said as they were leaving, and added, "later, guys."

"Later much," they said, without turning around.

As soon as I heard the door slam, I took out my tackle box again and went back to work. As I was whetting the hooks of my favorite Rebel, my mother came in.

"Your friends left pretty quick," she said. "Why didn't you go with them?"

"I don't know. They were going to see a movie, and I didn't feel like it," I lied.

"So what else are you going to do?"

I was hiding the lure between my legs, but she saw the open tackle box at my feet.

"You're not thinking of going fishing, are you? You're not crazy enough to do that when it's this cold, are you? And at night yet! Huh?"

(Continued on next page.)

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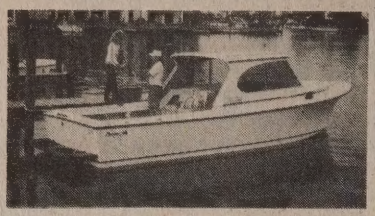
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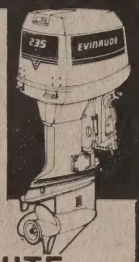
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"Aw, don't worry! This is the first decent night when I don't have school the next day. Besides, it's probably still too early to catch fish, so I should be home soon enough."

"If you don't think you'll catch anything, then why..."

"Because I just want to go fishing already!" I interrupted. "It's been four months, and I just want to go down to the bay! Don't worry, I'll dress warm."

She knew my stubbornness when it came to fishing, and as my father wasn't home from work yet (as I had figured on beforehand), she gave in—but not before a final, authoritative "but make sure you're home early!" As I thought I'd be back by 9:30, I replied "Sure, Mom, by 10:30 or so." "Not a minute later than 9:30—is that clear?" I gave her an annoyed look and mumbled, "yeah, yeah, 9:30. But if I'm catching fish..." I let it end there, and started getting dressed.

I packed up my gear on my bike, and waited until my mother wasn't around before I left so she wouldn't make me eat dinner first. It was about two hours to sunset, so I knew I'd have less than two hours to fish by the time I got there and set up everything. Also, a guy I fished with in the fall told me that the east shore of the bay was a better place to fish in the spring, so I figured I would need plenty of time to find a decent spot, this being my first trip to the area. I knew what roads to take to get there, but finding a way to get to the water would be the tricky part.

I had to go a little out of the way to avoid the Boulevard hangouts, where there would undoubtedly be people who knew me. I knew that I looked pretty stupid with my long pole taped to my small motorcross bike, and wearing heavy clothes and a knapsack, but I still didn't like it when the guys (and especially the girls) made fun of me. One time one of the older morons threw a beer bottle at me! To hell with the Boulevard—I didn't want to go anywhere near it!

Twenty minutes later and I was out of the city. The change in the houses was a clue that the shore wasn't much further—I knew a lot of rich people lived by the water. I had seen these houses from a car before, but they looked even bigger from my bike. I thought to myself how great it would be to live around here—to be able to go fishing right from my own backyard! Someday, I hoped, I would.

When I felt I had ridden far enough north, I turned west toward the sun, knowing well the water was in that direction.

Finally I reached the street that ran along the bay. I could see the water in-between the houses as I rode looking for a way to get there without having to go through someone's property. Spotting a path between two far-apart houses, I locked up my bike to a telephone pole, grabbed my gear, and quietly walked to the shoreline. At the end of the path, I climbed down from the seawall and walked to the water over the slippery rocks. I knew from the tide tables that the incoming tide had just started, and that as time went on, I would have to retreat and eventually abandon the flooded shoal.

As I put together my outfit, I looked at the shore behind me. The houses to the right and left of the path had enormous back yards overlooking the water. In them I saw a basketball court, a volleyball net, a small motorcycle, and small flags which I figured marked golf holes. I thought it strange that neither yard had a boat stored in it. I then spotted a car pulling into the driveway of the house on the right, so I turned around and finished tying on the Rebel facing the water.

As I made my first cast, I forgot about everything but the fishing. The wind was light, but my hands were cold and my feet were getting wet from the water rippling over the rock on which I stood. Ecstasy set in, and I found myself smiling at the bay.

Half an hour later, the sun was almost at the horizon. I was enjoying the colorful western sky when something stopped my cranking of the reel handle cold. My quick reaction after a long winter of idleness was a pleasant surprise, as was the hooked and now fighting fish. I landed the small bass quickly, unhooked and gently released it, and smiled as I watched it first linger, and then steadily dart away.

I quickly caught and released two more bass, one of which was nice sized, though short of the legal 24 inch size limit. I was so excited that I didn't realize how fast the water was rising. When I jumped off the rock to move back a bit, I noticed a man walking across the back yard to the right towards the water. From the top of the seawall he motioned me to approach him, which I did, stopping directly beneath him next to the wall.

"Ya know you're not supposed to be there, don't ya kid?" was his greeting. It was common knowledge to me by this time that kids aren't supposed to be anywhere; playing dumb was my usual response to such questions.

"No. I'm just fishin'."

"Yea, well this is private property, and you're not allowed here," he snarled. He was old enough to be my father. I decided that his unprovoked meanness deserved my disrespect, but fought against this temptation.

"I thought this was a bay, mister. Do you own the bay?"

"Don't get wise with me, kid. I own the land around the bay, so I can kick you out any time I please. I didn't plan on doing that, but I will if ya get wise with me."

"Yes, sir, I'm sorry," I replied with exaggerated humility, feeling it was my best chance of being allowed to stay.

"Yeah, well just watch your mouth, 'cause this is private property round here" he reminded me once again. "Say, I saw ya throw back a pretty big

fish before. Why didn't you keep it?"

Guessing that he knew nothing about fish or fishing, I explained to him that the fish I was catching were striped bass and that the legal size limit for keeping them was 24 inches. I also added that this was off-season for bass, so that it was illegal to keep them, regardless of their size.

"But if you can't keep them, then why go fishing for them?"

I patiently answered that the enjoyment was in the catching, and not the keeping of fish; also, that I personally kept a fish only when I knew I'd be able to eat it the same day that I caught it.

"But striped bass are expensive fish," was his reply. "I know, 'cause I eat them in fancy restaurants sometimes."

I reminded him that the light was fading, and that I wanted to fish now until darkness.

"I'll tell you what," he said, looking at the sunset. "If ya catch any more of 'em, give them to me instead of throwing 'em back. I'll have my maid cook 'em for me."

I reminded him that it was illegal to keep a bass of any size.

"What illegal! he sneered. "Just bring 'em up to my back door once it's dark. Who's gonna know? My neighbors don't know a bass from a catfish!" He chuckled, perhaps at the thought of the ignorance of his neighbors.

With this, I felt the man exposed.

"No way!" I told him, and immediately walked back to the water.

"Damn rotten kid!" he yelled after me. I didn't turn around.

After twenty more minutes of peace—unbroken by either man or fish—I started packing up my gear, ready to call it a night. It was then that I noticed a policeman walking down the path towards the water. I wasn't worried about getting kicked out, since I was leaving anyway.

"Come on kid, let's go."

"I'm going," I answered as I climbed the seawall. He then took my pole. Once up, I reached for it and he grabbed my arm.

"Uh, uh, kid—you're comin' with me. Tell me where you live, so I can take you home."

"Take me home!" I cried, "what do you mean?"

"Would ya rather I take ya down to the station? Now come on...git movin'!"

"But my bike—please, let me go," I pleaded.

"We'll put that in the trunk. Now let's go—not another word outta ya!" he snarled, pushing me up the path.

I was desperate, and could feel sobs rising in my throat. I knew that when my mother saw me brought home in a police car, she would never let me go fishing again. I turned around to continue my pleading, just in time to see the cop wave to a back window of the house on the right, where the now dying light from the west betrayed the man's presence, who took shelter behind the protection of the blind.

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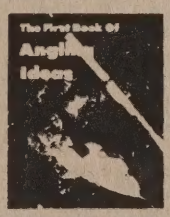

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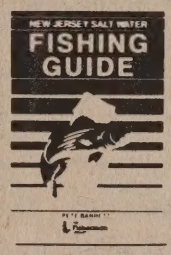

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STATEN ISLAND FLOUNDER: HARBINGERS OF SPRING

by Rich Giessuebel

With the coming of spring, water and air temperatures will begin to rise, flounder will doff their mud covers, and soon will start seeking out meals to sustain their renewed vitality. Tackle shops will begin supplying flounder baits and rigs, while fishermen will begin getting their gear ready for still another season which will begin with catching the first spring flounder. On Staten Island, the season will get under way somewhere around Great Kills Harbor in the Gateway National Recreational Park area.

Once the season gets going, flounder can almost be caught all around the island. The locations that you should try, however, will take you from Stapleton in the north to Totenville in the south. This encompasses the entire western shore.

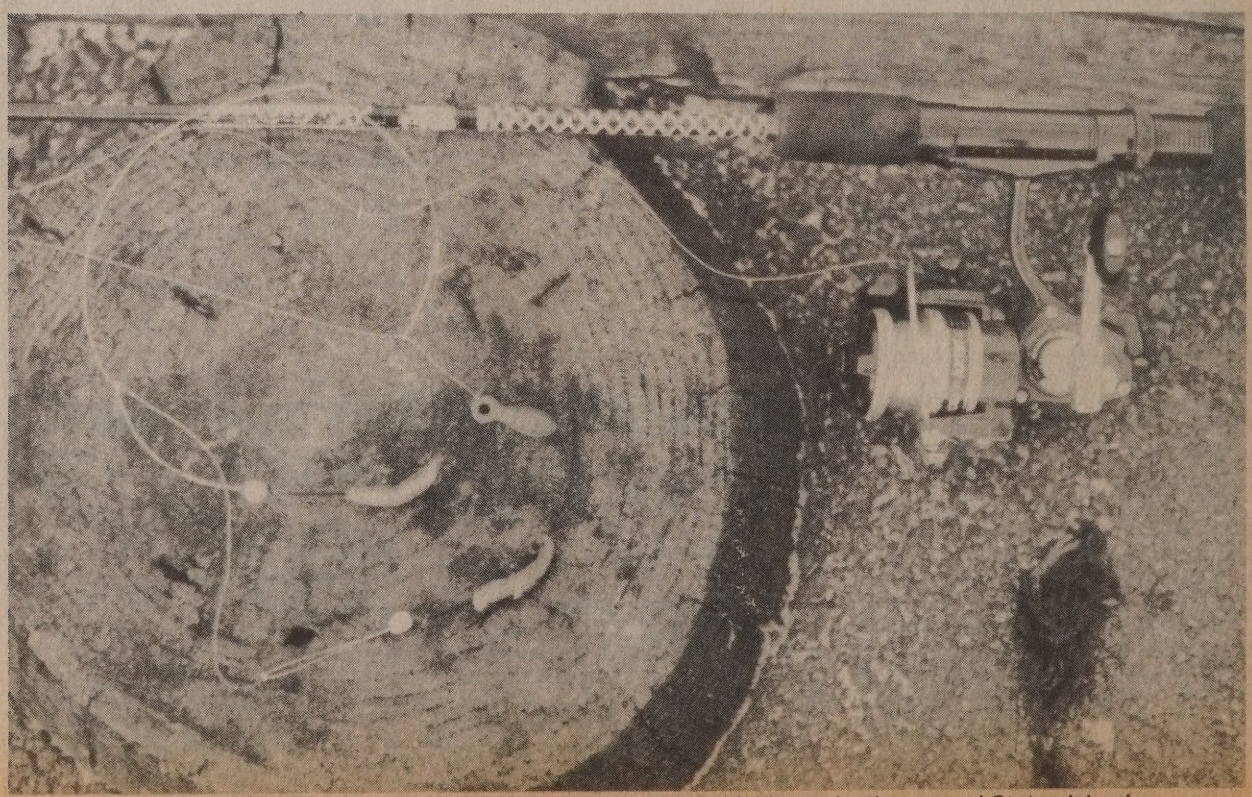
The best tides to fish this time of year will generally be the same no matter where you fish around the island. The preferable tide will be an outgoing one with the best fishing coming about 1½ hours before dead low to 1½ hours into high. The water is its warmest during this section of tide and if coupled with one or two sunny days preceding the tide you want to fish, the flounder will be the most active.

This is best explained by noting that the sun warms up little creeks first, then this warm water makes its way out to where it forms rivers. The warm rivers run out to the bay and the cycle takes about two days. Therefore, if you wait for two warm, sunny days, and then go spring flounder fishing, regardless of what the weather is like on that day, the fishing will be the best.

Beginning in the north, flounder fishermen may score with flatties along the concrete bulkheads where the old piers are being torn down, possibly making way for the Navy's 7th Fleet, at Stapleton. The water is deep here, and a good mud bottom ensures the presence of flounder. Heading south from Stapleton using Bay Street, you come to Clifton Avenue and if you miss that, one block beyond is the beginning of Hyland Blvd. Make a left and drive one block to the Narrows at Cliffwood Beach. Flounder can be caught here this time of year, along with an occasional striped bass.

Now, moving beyond the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, you come to South Beach. This is a sandy expanse of water that usually houses many game fish, but where flounder are concerned, stick to the storm sewer exits along the beach. Off these structures, flounder will be caught! Below South Beach are the beaches of Midland and New Dorp. Each beach has storm sewer exits where flounder fishing usually perks at low tidal conditions.

While at New Dorp, stop into the main office of the Gateway National Recreation area. Here is where you will be able to pick up a parking permit for the next location to try flounder fishing. This area is Great Kills Harbor. Once at Great Kills, you will be able to fish off a wooden bulkhead in the harbor itself (the best location), off a jetty into Great Kills



Bloodworm fished on a two-hook rig such as this is highly productive around Staten Island.

Channel, or at the mouth of the harbor. These spots are great for bluefish, weakfish and fluke, so get your pass and try for some flounder while learning about the area.

On the other side of the harbor is Staten Island Bait & Tackle, 1-718-984-0144. The proprietor, Jim Crockett, tells me that the long time trailer boat ramp located 100 yards south of his store may not be opening this year. Since the head boats have been chased out of this marina, the possibility exists that the ramp may be closed, too. Keep in touch with Jim for the most up-to-the-minute information.

If this ramp is in fact closed, it will represent a problem for all us guys who like to trailer over to Staten Island and fish off Hoffman and Swinburne Islands in the lower New York Bay. The only other trailer boat launch ramp is located at Lemon Creek off Seguine Avenue into Princess Bay. This ramp is an additional 4 miles from the one in Great Kills and as far as ramps go, it's the pits.

Flounder fishing is excellent, however, right here in Lemon Creek. All along the shoreline, wherever you can wet a line, you should be able to catch some flounder. This location is easly reached by crossing over the Outer Bridge Crossing from New Jersey, getting onto Amboy Road and following to Seguine Avenue. From the Goethals Bridge, take Rt. 440 south to Huguenot Avenue; Huguenot to Amboy Road, make a right to Seguine Road. If this is the only ramp, then these routes will get you to it the quickest.

While fishing for flounder this time of year, stick to a double hook rig and bait up with bloodworms, sand worms, or clam mantle. You can make a chum paste up using dog food, whole kernal corn (white or yellow), or tuna fish. Simply ladle some of this concoction into the water every few minutes and allow it to do its thing, or if it is too windy to be effective, drop a chum pot to the bottom and allow your slick to begin down on the bottom. You should try to get situated about 2½ hours before the dead low tidal condition. This will allow you one full hour to get your chum slick going for maximum effectiveness at slack tide.

Remember, always fish down current of your slick (this will change when the tide turns), never fish an area that will be exposed at dead low tide, and always try to keep fresh bait on your hooks.

Cast your bait out just beyond your slick and allow it to settle to the bottom. Give the fish about 5 minutes to find the bait and if they don't, move the bait slowly along the bottom. Stop every so often and wait for a strike. If none are forthcoming, retrieve and check your bait.

Well, that's all there is to it. Remember, Staten Island is easily accessible to all of northern Jersey and makes a great place to try for the first available species of the spring.

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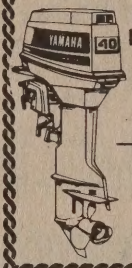

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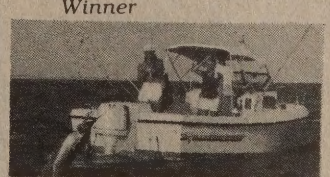

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THE BIG APPLE'S RESERVOIR TROUT

by Dick Mermon

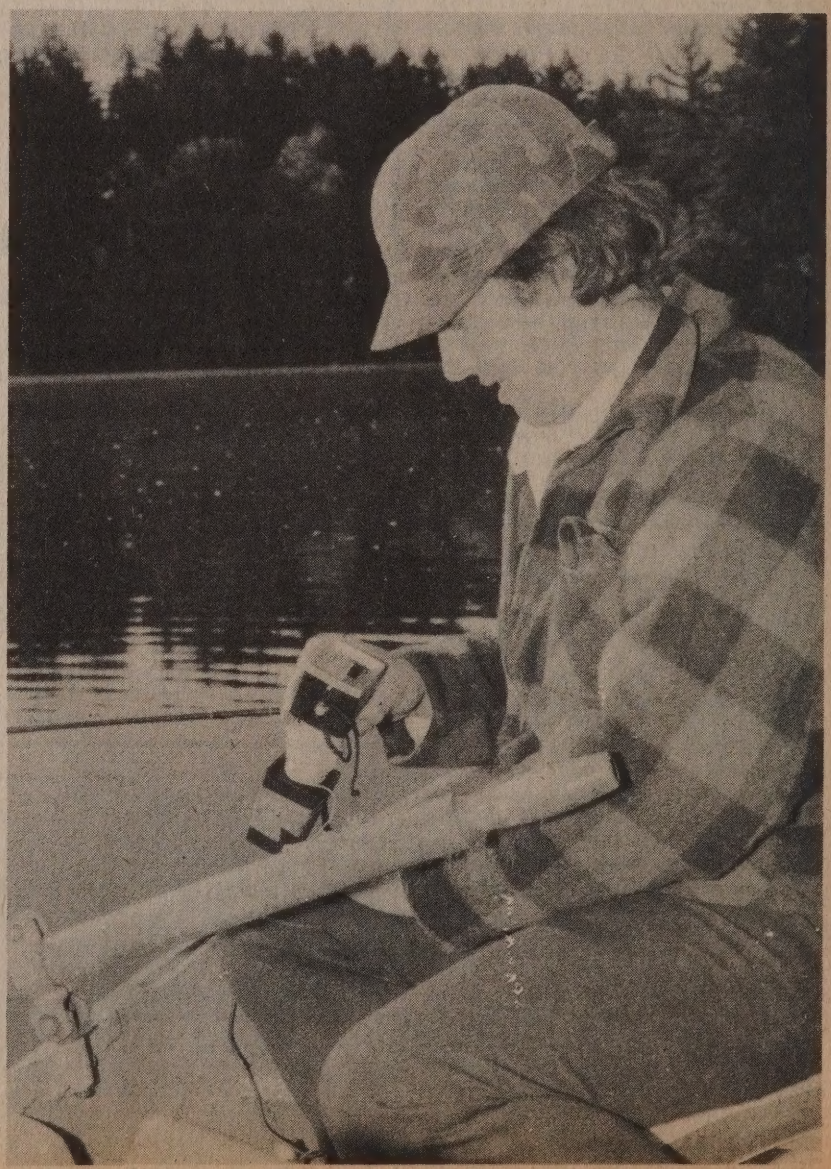
New York City's reservoirs get surprisingly little play from Metropolitan area anglers, despite them being a haven for trophy trout.

Trout enthusiasts who sense they have found their utopia in nearby lakes which are seasonally stocked with merely a few hooked jaw trout mixed in with the nine and ten inchers would do well to know what is available at just a short distance to the north in New York City's reservoir system. Reaching well into the Catskill Mountains, are the Navesink, Pepacton, Schoharie, Roundout and Ashokan Reservoirs. Still, it is the lower portion of New York State closest to the Big Apple itself, which receives the abundance of water distribution and oddly enough, the least fishing pressure. Here within two counties, are 15 impoundments of considerable acreage where anglers of all ages can enjoy fishing for big resident trout.

Westchester County, which borders the metropolitan area along the Bronx line, accommodates seven of the lakes, while Putnam County (next in a northerly trek) maintains eight impoundments. All of these watersheds each year yield substantial amounts of brown, rainbow and lake trout. In fact, last season's average brown trout weighed in at the Mohegan Sportsman Shop, Mohegan Lake, NY, was four pounds. There were also several tipping the scale at 9 and 10 pounds, with the best, a 19 pounder. The Bedford Sportsman, in Bedford Hills, N.Y., had seen the best in rainbows which were around 8 pounds. Speculation between these two shops is there will be a few 20 pound browns landed this season as well as some hefty rainbows.

Westchester County reservoirs are listed according to productivity and are as follows: Cross River, Titicus, Amawalk, Muscoot, Kensico, Rye and New Croton. Within the Putnam County area they are: Croton Falls, West Branch, East Branch, Middle Branch, Deverting, Glenida, Gilead and Bog Brook Reservoirs. Each and every one of the mentioned waters sustain brown, rainbow and lake trout, receiving a seasonal stocking of sizeable fish from the DEC annually. But it is the holdovers, the year to year trout that create such a high state of anxiety among anglers. Also, the program has been expanded recently to include landlocked salmon and coho salmon. One of the smaller lakes, Gilead, has yielded a few cohos up to four pounds.

The rapid growth of these impoundment fish is due to the abundance of alewives, which are the mainstay of the trout. In a one-year period, a trout of 12 inches in length will grow to 16 inches. Larger fish, especially the browns, will reach a certain dimension and then expand girth-wise, instead of length-wise.



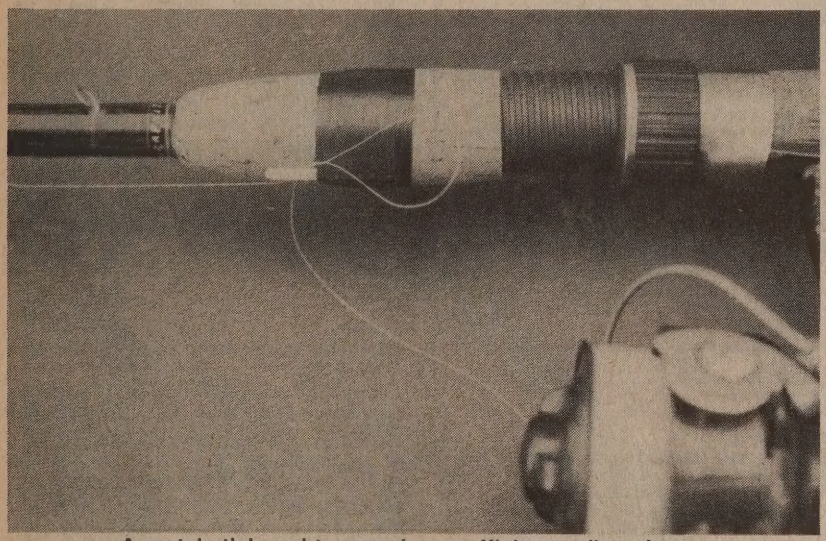
Finding the proper temperature range is the key to locating big reservoir trout.

These big bellied fish are often referred to as "footballs."

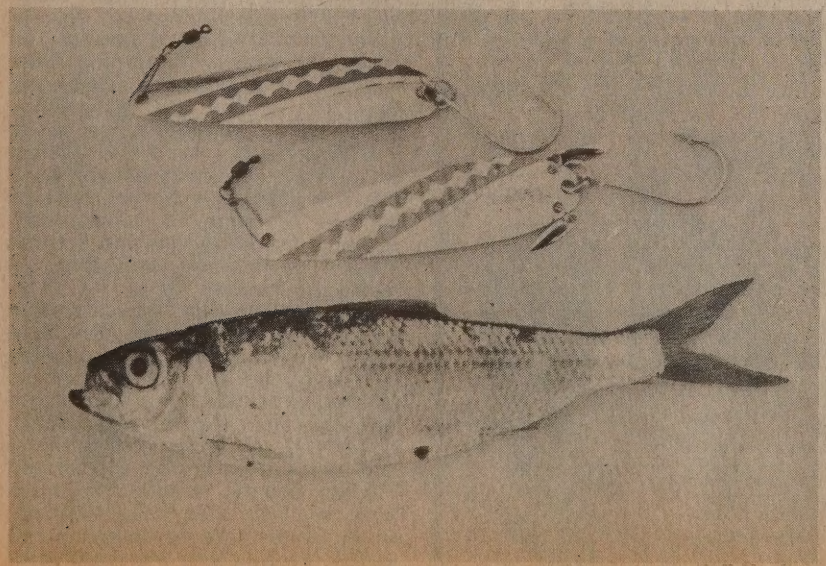
All the New York City reservoirs may be fished from year end to year end, including through the ice with the exception of Kensico and Rye. These two joined bodies of water close for trout at the state's season end, but warm water species may be retained. There is no ice fishing permitted on these two waters for any species once the large and smallmouth bass season closes. In other words, "keep off when the ice shows."

There is one requirement for anglers who wish to fish the city-owned watersheds and that is the need for a special permit. Anyone age 12 years and up must obtain a personal watershed permit and have it on them when entering watershed property. As it is with a state fishing license, the authorization is non-transferable; to do so is in violation. The certificate of permission will cost nothing. It is free from the city and that is a true gift, but one must submit two black and white 1½x1¼ inch passport type photos, present a valid New York State fishing license and fill out the application at one of the system's field offices. There are two locations within the counties mentioned. They can be found at: New York City Department of Water Supply, 1 Belden Rd., Box 413, Carmel, NY 10512, (914) 2254-3550; or Box 66, West Lake Drive, Valhala, NY 10595, (914) 946-2712. It is also possible to receive the permit through the mail, but I would advise calling the office nearest you beforehand.

In order to secure a boat permit on any of these watersheds, you must appear in person with the same type of photos, the boat to be used, the location it is going to be permanently moored and the personal watershed fishing permit. Usually, any 12 to 16 foot wood, fiberglass, or aluminum rowboat is acceptable as long as it is seaworthy, non-inflatable, nor sail, or skulling type. There are no motor or sail operated boats tolerated on any New York City reservoir and that includes electric fishing motors. It is all done by arm and oar power. These permits are also free of charge and valid until revoked by the city for some type of violation such as employing a motor, sail, skull, destroying property or leaving rubbish behind. The boat must also remain in one location throughout the season and be removed from the shoreline before ice-up of the lake.



A matchstick and tape make an efficient strike release.



Live alewives and "flutter spoons" account for the bulk of the big trout taken in the New York City reservoir system.

By no means does the technique of catching these football trout require the necessity of a boat. Shore anglers take their share by casting lures as well as live alewives out into the lake and allowing them to swim freely on bottom. Quite often, especially during the months of April, May and early June, hook-jaw trout seek a preferred water temperature close to the shoreline, where it is warmer in the spring and cooler before summer. These fish also follow the alewives into the shallows as they, too, require a comfort zone.

While shore casting is called "freelining," boat fishing too has its own titled called "mooching" or "live drifting." Since this angling mode is all done by muscle power, a slight breeze on the lake is helpful, for it assists in the natural motion of the boat.

Rods used by shore casters are usually of the spinning type in lengths of 6½ or 7 feet, but mooching rods are slightly longer. These should be about 8 feet long with a limber tip section. Actually, a type of downrigger or steelhead rod is advisable. The reason for such an odd action is due to the bait used and how it is applied.

A trout, when taking the minnow offered must feel no resistance from line or rod, or it will expel the bait instantly. Hence, when assaulting the alewive, it pulls the tip slightly downward and feels no pressure as it begin to swim off, allowing the angler sufficient time to free spool line to the unsuspecting fish below.

The state law permits an angler the use of but two rods at any fishing time, whether casting from shore, or in a boat drifting or rowing. In mooching, the boat should be equipped with some means of holding a single, or both rods out each side and a device to keep the line from free spooling out as it moves. There are special "hold-fast" units which can be purchased and attached to the rod for this angling, but Jimmy Seabolt, of the Mohegan Sportsman Shop, showed me a "matchstick" release that worked very well. A matchstick or twig is fastened to the spinning or conventional rod's foregrip by either a rubber band, or plastic tape. Once secured, line is loop folded into the front of the stick. In this way the reel can be placed in free spool, or the bail opened without line coming out. Now, a fish can take the bait, pull the line free of the stick without sensing

(Continued on next page.)

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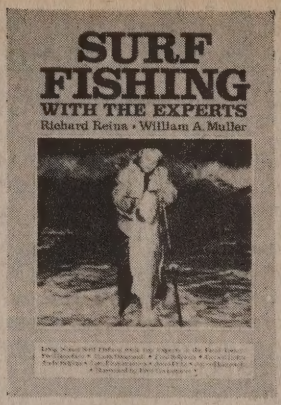

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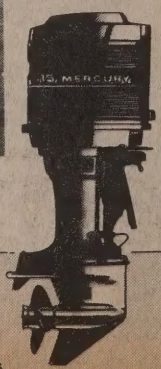

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danger and run until the desired time arrives to set the hook. With this type of system, two rods can be easily positioned onto the boat's rear seat, or between the angler's legs.

Mooching with live bait is the favored method of anglers who constantly seek the big trout, but the depth which the baits are allowed to swim is truly the secret to success. Reservoir trout require a comfort area of water found somewhere between the surface and the bottom. This is where the most abundant oxygen is found and is a temperature range of between 56 and 62 degrees. The combination of a portable depth recorder and a temperature gauge of some type adds to a fisherman's success.

Even for these oversized trout, rarely is line test heavier than 10 pound employed. The best is six pounds, with a leader of mono slightly stiffer than the line in a six foot length and the same pound test. There are few hazards where a trout can go in these deep impoundments, so it just runs and occasionally jumps. To prevent line twist, a small swivel is attached between the leader and the line, then a #6 or #8 hook is fastened to the leader's end. Hook size depends upon the size of the alewife being used for the point and barb is passed through the bait's nostrils, rather than into the upper back or lips. This system maintains the minnow in an active swimming position without injury. To sustain a positive depth when mooching, a small splitshot is pinched onto the line above the swivel and its weight depends upon wind conditions and rate of drift.

Line is paid out by a measured count-out arrangement. It is stripped from the reel to the calculated length of the first guide, or a mark on the rod itself. Thus determines the minnow's depth at which it will swim. So many stretches of line means so many feet down.

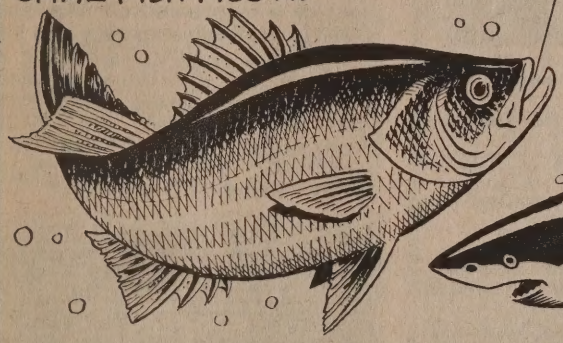
Lures can also be employed in this type of trout fishing. Among them, big spinners and spoons in gold or silver hues. Mepps and Rooster Tail spinners, along with flashing Sidewinder, Sutton, Red Eye, C&Js and Eppinger spoons are productive. They, too, are attached with a swivel and long leader with the system calling for a constantly moving boat. When a flutter spoon is used, the stop and go procedure is emphasized, allowing the lure to rise and fall into various depths and simulating an injured minnows.

Even though these impoundments are in close proximity to New York City itself, they are not populated with anglers. Each reservoir can be reached directly off of a super highway that runs through both counties, Route 684. By either consulting a local tackle shop in Westchester and Putnam County, or following directions on a New York State road map, an angler can take advantage of this quality trouting and the nicest part about it is that it's free.

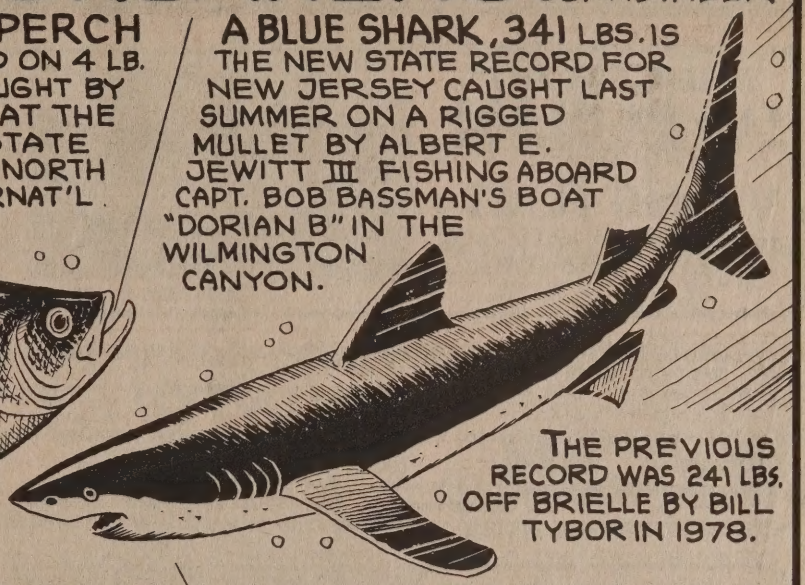
RECORD BREAKERS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A 1 LB. 15 OZ. WHITE PERCH IS A NEW WORLD RECORD ON 4 LB. CLASS LINE AND WAS CAUGHT BY ALAN FLEXER FISHING AT THE SUNKEN MEADOWS N.Y. STATE PARK ON LONG ISLAND'S NORTH SHORE, REPORTS THE INTERNAT'L. GAME FISH ASS'N.

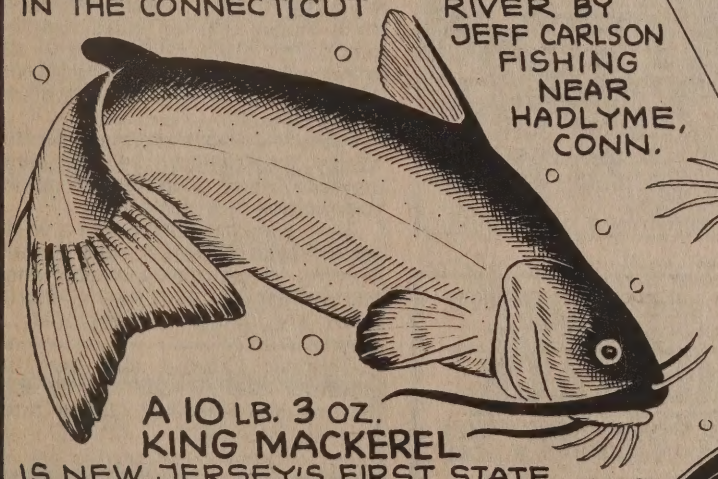


A BLUE SHARK, 341 LBS. IS THE NEW STATE RECORD FOR NEW JERSEY CAUGHT LAST SUMMER ON A RIGGED MULLET BY ALBERT E. JEWITT III FISHING ABOARD CAPT. BOB BASSMAN'S BOAT "DORIAN B" IN THE WILMINGTON CANYON.



THE PREVIOUS RECORD WAS 241 LBS. OFF BRIELLE BY BILL TYBOR IN 1978.

A 2 ½ LB. WHITE CATFISH IS A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THESE CATS ON 20 LB. CLASS LINE AND WAS TAKEN IN THE CONNECTICUT RIVER BY JEFF CARLSON FISHING NEAR HADLYME, CONN.



A 2 LB. BROWN BULLHEAD BECAME THE FIRST NEW YORK STATE RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES. IT WAS HAULED OUT OF ONEIDA LAKE BY FISHERMAN ROBERT JONES.

A 10 LB. 3 OZ. KING MACKEREL IS NEW JERSEY'S FIRST STATE RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES CAUGHT BY ROBERT SEITZ OF MT. LAUREL...

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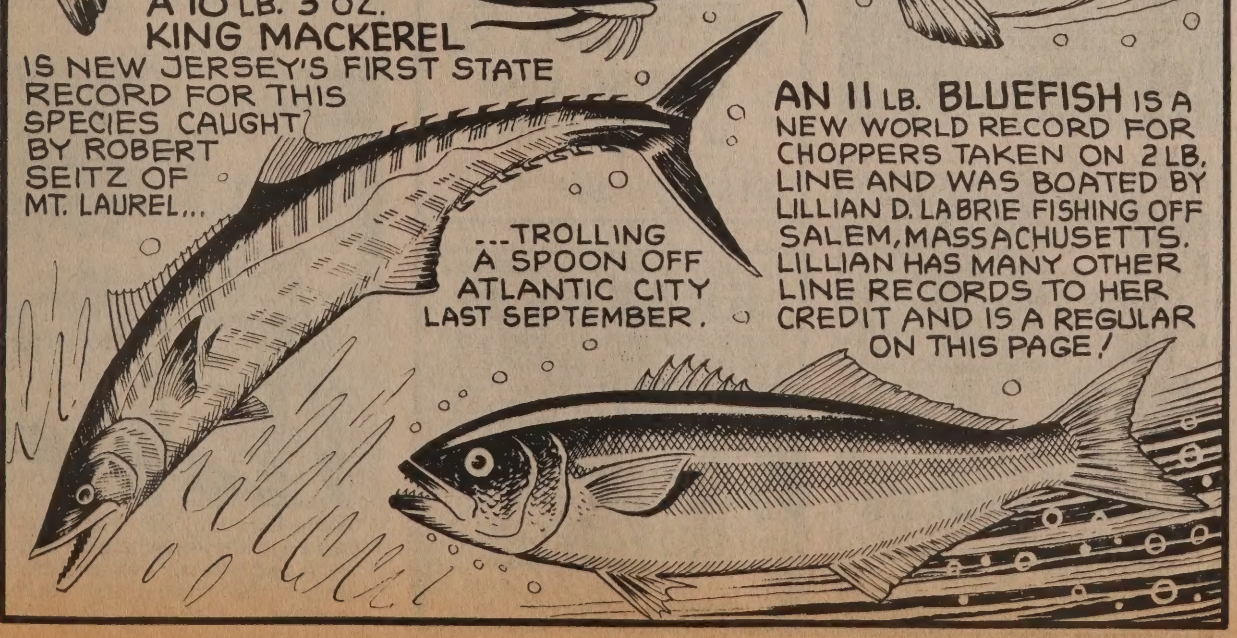
AN 11 LB. BLUEFISH IS A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR CHOPPERS TAKEN ON 2 LB. LINE AND WAS BOATED BY LILLIAN D. LABRIE FISHING OFF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS. LILLIAN HAS MANY OTHER LINE RECORDS TO HER CREDIT AND IS A REGULAR ON THIS PAGE!



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East End REPORT
with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

The fishing picture took a definite turn for the better this past week. Signs of life appeared off Montauk, whales, porpoises, sand eels, and lots of cod fish! Flounder are stirring at Lake Montauk, while increased catches have been reported in the early spots along the east end. While strong winds again kept many die-hards home, hardy explorers caught enough flatties for a nice meal.

MONTAUK

The **Joy-Sea** fished locally on Saturday's maiden voyage and found cod waiting and willing to take the bait offered by Ken Seiferth and his sons. A total of 45 cod, to 30 pounds were boated. The majority of the fish were in the 15 lb. range. Captain Chuck Mallinson noted lots of life around, sand eels and many playful whales, one of which took off with his marker buoy!

Capt. Mike Bentevegna Jr. advised me that the **Pronto** will be in the water on April 1st all geared up for spring cod, pollock and blackfish.

Capt. King has been working on the **King Wayne** all winter, polishing and staining for his spring season which starts April 13th. Weekend charter dates are filling up fast. Call to reserve a date.

Charlott Uihlein told me that **Uihlein's Boat Rentals** will be open starting this weekend. Rental boats

Steve Rad, left, and Ted Trust show a 45 lb. yellowfin tuna and 32 lb. cod taken on the same trip aboard the "Viking Star" last summer.

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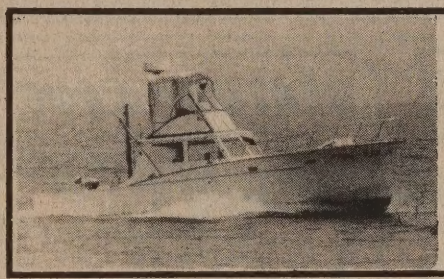
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are in the water and bait is available for early flounder explorers. Some small flounder were caught during the week from docks and piers in the Montauk area.

Capt. Joe McBride, besides acquiring a new 41 ft. Hatteras, has a new co-captain and mate, Capt. Charlie Zboray. The **My-Mate** is ready for cod and flounder now. Call for your choice date.

Many changes have taken place over the winter at **Captain's Cove Marina**, besides brand new freezers, a new manager has just taken over the helm, Craig Schmidt who formerly owned and operated a Patchogue marina. Charter boats are entering the water at a rapid pace and will be ready for fishing early in April.

The **Marlin IV** will start cod fishing this weekend, sailing daily at 6 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, 6:30 a.m. on weekdays. Capt. Richie Rade asked me to remind all young anglers that children are half fare. Keep this in mind with Easter vacation coming up!

Anglers on the **Vivienne** enjoyed three hot trips, back to back last week. Thursday's charter found 48 cod, Friday's 42, while on Saturday six pollock to 20 lbs. were caught along with 41 cod fish. Capt. John DeMaio was very happy with the consistancy of recent cod fishing, a good sign for a productive spring run. Incidentally, his charters were treated to the antics of playful porpoises on Saturday.

Tom, spoksman for **Montauk Marine Basin** noted that hook and line catches of cod picked up dramatically at both Cartwright and CIA grounds last week.

Wednesday's trip on the **Viking Starship** was complicated by stiff southwest winds, drizzle, and cold, we did manage approximately two dozen each of cod, pollock, and blackfish. My thanks to Mike Prisco for the use of his warm jacket! The weekend was a completely different picture with a two hour ride to cod fish heaven to Capt. Mike Bock's spot southeast of Block Island. Saturday's trip resulted in 136 cod, 20 pollock (to 30 lbs.) , and 25 hake for 27 anglers. Pool cod of 37 lbs. was caught by John Robissa of West Hempstead. James Boucher took the $3.00 pool with a 41

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lb. hake. James also had 10 cod, top weight 25 lbs.

On Sunday, 32 fishermen caught 190 fish, all cod. Joe Santos of Queens took the pool with a 35 lb. cod, while Bill Noble had second place with his 28 lb. fish. Capt. Bock noted that all the fish weighed in the teens and up, and that ten fishermen all tied for high hook with 10 cod apiece. Joyce Bock has the knack for getting cod fish ears (for jewelry) easily out of the fish. Ask Joyce at the **Starship** snack bar about this next time you go fishing.

SOUTH FORK

Captain Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric** will start fishing from Sag Harbor on Saturday, March 30th and Sunday March 31st. Beginning on Good Friday, the boat will fish on a daily basis.capt. Lach will take the boat from Hampton Bays to Sag Harbor this week, probably Wednesday, and will spend the day fishing the probable early hot spots. Capt. Lach is looking forward to a super start on the **Wilhelric**, based on recent good fishing reports from the area.

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in **Southampton** has heard of significant flounder catches at Barcelona Neck (east of Northwest Creek). Based on previous year's early flounder reports, now is the time to give Promised Land a try. Usually very large fish, some over 3 lbs., are taken here in early April.

Rosemarie Fedorco has been putting in time at the Shinnecock Canal, waiting for the next run of large flounder. For the past ten days, the

Ken Dinkel and George McLucky with a nice catch of flatties made during a trip out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in East Moriches.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	—	12:10	12:40	1:05	12:05	12:35	1:25	2:15	3:00	3:40	3:20	3:55	—	12:25	3/28
FRI.	12:25	1:10	1:35	2:00	12:55	1:35	2:25	3:20	3:55	4:35	4:15	4:55	12:55	1:30	3/29
SAT.	1:30	2:20	2:35	3:05	1:55	2:50	3:30	4:25	4:50	5:40	5:15	5:55	2:00	2:35	3/30
SUN.	2:40	3:35	3:45	4:10	3:15	4:10	4:30	5:20	5:55	6:50	6:20	6:55	3:05	3:35	3/31
MON.	3:55	4:40	4:45	5:15	4:30	5:15	5:30	6:10	7:05	7:55	7:20	7:50	4:00	4:30	4/1
TUES.	4:55	5:35	5:45	6:10	5:35	6:10	6:30	7:00	8:10	8:50	8:15	8:45	4:55	5:20	4/2
WED.	5:50	6:20	6:35	7:00	6:30	6:55	7:20	7:45	9:10	9:40	9:10	9:35	5:45	6:10	4/3
THURS.	6:40	7:10	7:30	7:50	7:15	7:40	8:10	8:30	10:05	10:30	10:00	10:20	6:35	7:00	4/4

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 3/28	5:48	6:19
FRI. 3/29	5:47	6:20
SAT. 3/30	5:45	6:23
SUN. 3/31	5:44	6:24
MON. 4/1	5:43	6:25
TUE. 4/2	5:42	6:26
WED. 4/3	5:41	6:27

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 3/28	9:31AM	12:30AM
FRI. 3/29	10:22AM	1:30AM
SAT. 3/30	11:22AM	2:23AM
SUN. 3/31	12:31PM	3:10AM
MON. 4/1	1:44PM	3:50AM
TUE. 4/2	3:01PM	4:24AM
WED. 4/3	4:18PM	4:54AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
3/21	3/29	4/5	4/12

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	10:00	3:50	10:35	4:20
Fri.	11:00	4:50	11:30	5:15
Sat.	11:50	5:40	—	6:05
Sun.	12:20	6:35	12:45	6:55
Mon.	1:10	7:20	1:30	7:45
Tues.	2:00	8:10	2:30	8:35
Wed.	2:50	9:00	3:10	9:25
Thurs.	3:40	9:45	3:55	10:10

CAPTREE

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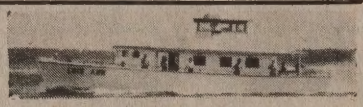

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South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Nighttime temperatures in the low 20's through much of last week caused water temperatures inside the bays to drop. This combined with a flood tide (and its accompanying colder ocean water) through most of the day was blamed for a slip in flounder action in Great South Bay where fishing had been excellent last weekend. While many boats and anglers reported a slow to fair pick of fish Saturday and Sunday, there were still some who managed to do quite well despite the adverse conditions.

The first showing of big flatties in the open reaches of Moriches Bay occurred over the weekend but any real solid action with these fish is still likely a week away. Same cold water temperatures being the culprit here as well.

A few days of mild temperatures and sunshine should put the Great South Bay action back on the track for the weekend and help get the ball rolling in Moriches Bay.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

This weekend saw the first catches of big fish made in the bay according to Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lily Fishing Station** in **East Moriches**. The few boats that sampled the action managed from 12 to 30 flatties apiece. All were in the 1-2½ pound range and were taken in the 5-6 foot depths north of buoys 41 thru 45. Gary figures that some warmer weather this week should put the fishing in good shape for the weekend.

Over at **Seatuck Cove** in **Eastport** Andy Hegeman said that his boats continue to do a decent job on the fish in the Quogue Canal. Numbers have been good but lots of small fish are being taken here. On Saturday, Dennis Wagner and Helmut Arndt fished Buoy 3—just east of the 2nd Bridge in the Quogue Canal and returned with 65 flatties. Most were in fish have been on the small side, with 9 returned for every one kept. Over the weekend all baits worked equally well, sand and bloodworms, clam and mussel. Rosemarie noted that most of the fish are males, loaded with milt. Her records show a run of large fish usually takes place the first and second weeks in April. Fish or not, it's a nice way to spend a few hours!

CAPTREE

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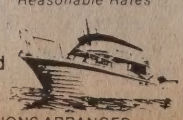

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the ¾ to 1 pound class. They used mussel chum and blood and sandworm baits.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Kind of a slow weekend according to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Paul felt threatening weather reports were mainly to blame for the small turnout in anglers. He did know that flounder fishing north of Davis Park on Fire Island was good this week though not as wild as last weekend's action. Also, a number of smaller fish were mixed with the larger fish this week. Action around the Smith Point Bridge, particularly in the buoy 12 area, showed signs of picking up with a few guys returning with upwards of 15 keepers apiece. Bernie Lorenz returned from a perch trip to Tuthill's Creek with 5 nice big flounder taken on worms.

Al Colban of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** reported that he teamed with George Walters on Sunday and managed 32 flatties between 1 and 2¼ pounds. The pair were selective in what they kept and returned at least a dozen fish below the 1 pound mark. Al labelled it a steady pick and added that they had to work at it. They used two chum pots and stayed put. Fishing was done south of Bay Shore/Brightwaters. Wednesday seemed to be a popular day with flatfish angers. Ed Naekastaller, Jr. used sandworms to take 30 fish between 1 and 2 pounds at Buoy 4-Heckscher. Mike Dentici worked Buoy 2-East Islip to the tune of 25 flounder which fell in the ¾ to 1¼ pound class. Same day, Steve Behrendt culled 20 keepers out of a days work at the Shinnecock Canal.

Some pretty good catches of flounder south of Bay Shore on Wednesday and Thursday according to Carl Miller of **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore**. He noted that action on the weekend was a bit tough for most anglers. Back to Wednesday, one regular by the name of Vinnie elected to work the State Channel near the Babylon Cut. Using clam chum and worm and mussel bait he put away 40 nice fish according to Carl. The Bay Shore tackle man noted that he has been selling a surprising number of crab traps to flounder fans. It seems the blue claws become active in the warmer water of the Ebb tide and boatmen using traps have been adding a fair number of crabs to their flounder buckets.

Aboard the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee**, Capt. Neil Delanoy spoke of average catches of 12-15 flatties a man during the week with nearly all of the fish in the 1-2 pound class. Wednesday was the only exception when Neil fished east in the bay and found bigger numbers but smaller fish. Of the weekend, the skipper thought that the combination of cold

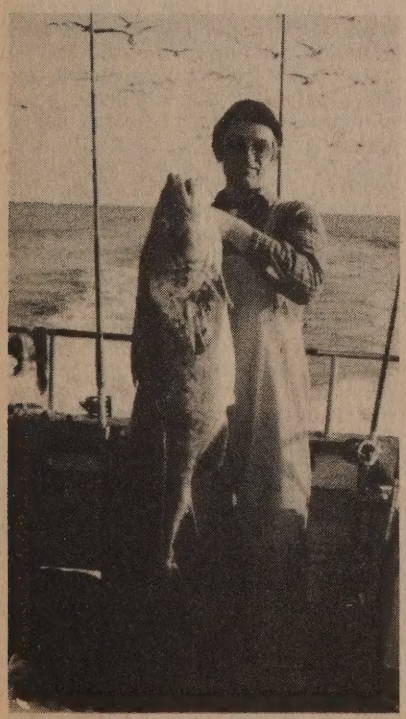
water and the flood tide took the edge off the fishing.

Over at **Captree**, Capt. Richie Westerlind of the open boat **Capt. Richie** spoke of good catches during the week, but a tough pick on the weekend. He had to do a lot of moving on Sunday in particular to put together a decent catch. Richie has been working from Bay Shore to Heckscher and points east.

His brother, **Capt. Rod**, of the open boat of the same name, called the weekend action picky and noted that the flood tide hurt the fishing. Action had been good during the week aside from Monday when gale winds killed the fishing. Some of the better action according to Rod has been found east in the bay off of Cherry Grove and Sailor's Haven. The fish are mixed sizes to the east with plenty of smaller fish accounting for action but still good numbers of large flatties rounding out the catches.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** reported action paled in comparison as compared to last week's action as a result of cold water and poor tide conditions. Still, he managed to land on a good body of hungry flatties on Sunday north of Cherry Grove. Henry Clark put away 35 keepers while James Allen added a 1.9 pound pool winner to his catch of 25 flatties. On Saturday, catches ranged between 8 and 20 keepers per man.

Aboard the **Miss Captree**, Carl Passero said that the better action over the weekend occured late in the day on the start of outgoing water.



This 39½ lb. cod was the largest of 12 taken by Norbert Freitag during a trip aboard the Captree based open boat, "Capt. Scotty 3."

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Saturday's fishing was fair with catches ranging between 10 and 20 fish per man. Sunday finished good with a nice shot of fish late in the day off of Sailor's Haven. Mike and Robert Guido of Howard Beach teamed to take 47 keepers while Joe Calandra put away 37 up to 2 pounds.

Nick Manzari of the **Speedy VII** spoke of good action during the week in the Bay Shore area with all big fish including a fair number in the 2 pound class. On Saturday, working the same Bay Shore area the skipper labelled it a pretty fair pick with nice fish and hi-hook in the 20 fish range. On Sunday, catches ranged from a dozen to 35 fish per man with quite a few smaller fish mixed in. The skipper worked Buoy 17 in East Channel.

Good action with big fish during the week but a fair to picky weekend according to Capt. Richie Leitch of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Leitch IV**. He too felt that cold nights combined with the flood tide took the edge off the fishing. Still, Saturday's fishing was a fair pick with an estimated 200 fish for 17 fares. Sunday was just plain tough according to the veteran skipper.

Some anglers continued to set their sights on cod and Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty 3** has been doing his best to oblige. Saturday's wreck trip saw 35 cod, most in the 8 to 10 pound class come aboard. In addition, 15 big blackfish with a number of the 6-10 pound class fell to clam baits. A big ground swell on Sunday put the fish off their feed with just 6 fish taken for the day. The skipper told of marking plenty of fish but anglers could do nothing with them. The boat's cod pool is now $1850. and climbing.

From **The Store** in **Oak Beach**, Jim O'Neill spoke of some flounder being picked from the State Channel side of Oak Beach and a few fish on the inlet side. Worms and clams have been working on the fish.

Speaking from **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Tom Healy noted the success of last Saturday's Tuna Seminar hosted by Capt. Bob Rocchetta of **Sabre Rods**. Tom had a good flounder catch to relay for Saturday as well. It seems Bob and Paul Schwartz, after taking in the morning seminar needed just a couple of hours in the afternoon to put away 60 flounder between ¾ and 1.9 pounds. They worked the north end of Snake Hill Channel. In comparison, on Sunday, the same pair with considerably more effort rounded up a paltry total of just 14 flatties. Also, Steve Pace who usually makes nay with the flatties managed only 6 fish on Sunday. Mickey Sadowski used Mr. Twisters on tiny leadheads to take 5 white perch up to 1¼ pounds from Carll's River.

Aboard the **Babylon** open boat **Miss Babylon**, Capt. Bob Newbauer told of pretty good action during the week with nice size fish and the slip to picky action with mixed size fish on the weekend. Bob has been working from Bay Shore to Heckscher.

Ed and Sal Lecce worked west to Squaw Island on Sunday and returned to show Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, 60 real nice flatties. On Saturday, Mike looked over a catch of 42 'big flounder' taken in Dickerson's Channel by a couple of shop regulars named John and Jerry. Mike added that perch fishing has been off in the local creeks and theres a lot of talk about netters cleaning the fish out of the creek in recent weeks. Some very sharp perch fishermen have been hard put to take more than 3 or 4 fish a trip.

Over in **Amity Harbor**, Bob Vitale of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** reported that Bob Rose and Scott Smyth of the store teamed with Fred Walters aboard his 'Reel Affair' on Saturday. The trio kept 45 flatties, most between 1 and 1¾ pounds. Fishing was done south of Bay Shore with plenty of mussel chum. On Sunday, Dick Kissel anchored over a cache of flounder in the State Channel at Gilgo. Bob was equally impressed with the size of the fish as with the numbers. The Amityville boatman put away 62 flatties between 1 and 2¼ pounds using worms and mussel chum.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

The unpredictable month of March stuck some cold weather down our necks along with some strong winds this week, but did not manage to put the fishing down to any large extent. Flounder action towards the end of the week and weekend was very good and mid-week catches were no slouches either. Cod fishing is there for those indulging, with private boats making decent catches on open bottom in 105 to 110 feet of water and the **Starstream II** doing nicely on good sized school fish on their continuing cod schedule.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Pop's Fishing Station called to say action continues to be good in all the local Seaford areas such as the Wantagh bridges and 4 Corners. John had no names or specific catches since he said there just too many anglers with too many good catches to give him time to write them down this week.

A call from the open boat **Chinco III** told of a great start Saturday with many fares catching into the 30s and

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high hooks in the 40s. Sizes were also quite good with pool fish going 2 plus lbs. and many fish over a pound being caught. Sunday was not quite as good as Saturday, but high hooks were still in the 20s on worm and mussel on both tides.

From **Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle** also in Seaford, comes word of very good flounder action this past week through Sunday with hotspots being Massapequa Cove, Squaw Island and the west side of the drawbridge. Ed Boyer had two nice buckets of flatties taken off Fort Neck Point on worm and mussel all around the high.

In Wantagh, Mike at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** advised that the best floundering this week was at buoy 2 in Jones Inlet at slack for mixed flatties on blood and sand worms. Action was also very good in Rowboat Alley, Nicks Point and the north end of Haunts Creek, mussels working best on fish to 2¼ lbs. Squaw yielded a lot of 1/2 to 1¼ lb. fish. Massapequa Cove seemed to diminish in quantity and quality this week said Mike, but the Jones Beach piers on incoming water produced very well for the pier anglers with some getting 8 to 15 flounder. Sands, bloods and red clam worked best. Hempstead Harbor produced 1 to 1¼ lb. flatties on mussels from the pier and beach. Rumors of cod and blackfish at Cholera.

From **Garan's Tackle** in Merrick, Gary told of lots of flounder still being caught in the whole bay area due south of Merrick and Freeport. He knew that the Jones Beach piers had been producing fish nicely while the best fishing his customers had was at slack in Jones and the Long Creek drawbridge.

Swinging over to Freeport, we learn of the special cod and pollock wreck trip on the **Starstream II** on Wednesday with 45 cod from 5 to 15 lbs. taken for 18 men. Again please note the boat's sailing schedule, consisting of 4 cod trips per week. See ad for details. The skipper advised there are still good numbers of cod remaining to be caught.

The word from Capt. Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** who has been flounder fishing is that 27 fares for Saturday and Sunday had a total catch of over 1,000 flounder for the weekend, all action being at Squaw Island and Jones Inlet. Al said the fishing has been excellent, the best in 20 years, with lots of triples and lots of 1½ to 2¼ lb. fish. Roosevelt Rogers of

Westbury had 53 on Saturday and 68 on Sunday. Nick and Matt Robano of Islip and John Cullen totalled 85 fish to 2 lbs. on the weekend. Al says to be on the lookout for something very special which is about to happen regarding himself and the boat. He said it's going to be something spectacular and beneficial to all of his steady customers and to all those who are yet to sail aboard the **Capt. Al**.

A call from Capt. Tony of the **Miss Freeport II** told of excellent flounder catches this week and weekend up to 50 good keepers a man. Fish have been running 3/4 to 1¼ lbs. and the drops have been very local, just a short ride from the dock. Worm and mussel baits have been best.

Fishing's been very good all week said skipper Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou**. On the full day boat, on Thursday Herb Schwartz of Long Beach had 53 flatties. Vic Levinson of Lido Beach hoisted 51 while Young Kim of Plainview had 56. Ten fares for the day totalled roughly 350 fish. On Friday, Morty Prefer had 52 and on Saturday John DeRose of Valley Stream boated 51. On Sunday Charlie Bauer of RVC was happy with 46 and John Marchurk grinned with 43. On the half day boat Tuesday saw Bob Gialonzo of Brooklyn with 29. Wednesday saw Joe the Rod Builder of Hempstead with 41, while on Thursday John and Helen Drower of Westbury had 55. Railehgh Groth of Uniondale settled for 40. Randy and Roy Rosenzweig of Glenwood shared 53 fish. On Saturday Joe Dimilte had 39 on two trips. This is all local fishing with sizes running 1/2 to 2¾ lbs. Excellent quality fish said Mike.

Something new on the Canal: at the **Blue Fin** dock, April 5 will see the opening at 5AM of a brand new Snack Bar which will be opening daily at 5AM with various types of hot, cold and liquid refreshments and foods for hungry and thirty fishermen.

Down in Point Lookout, word from Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** was of a solid week of flounder fishing with some very good catches. On Monday Earl French took the pool with a 2¾ lber. High hooks ran all week from the mid 20s to the mid 30s. On Thursday's PM trip high hook was 32 flatties. On Friday AM, Tom Devine bagged a 2¾ lb. pool winner. Saturday's PM trip saw Bob Zupka with a 2¼ lb. pool fish, while Terry and Andy Kramer totalled 70 flounder. On Sunday Karen Naurek bagged a 2½ lb. pool fish. High hook on the PM trip was 34 flounder. Ron says there are lots of fish in the inlet, Reynolds and back of Baldwin Bay, both tides working, worm and mussel bait best.

A call from Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** told of some fair to decent catches over the weekend from his skiffs. Saturday's catches ran from 8 to 12 good flounder a man, fish up to 2 lbs., while on Sunday, the average was 26 flounder per skiff. Reynolds Channel buoys 17 and 19 have been best, along with Swift Creek. Incom-

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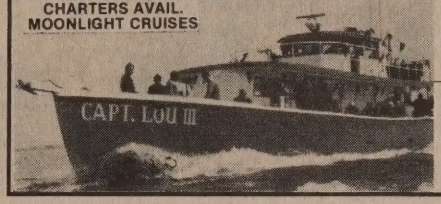
MOONLIGHT CRUISES



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Kevin Kirrane, Bob Rico, Tom Kirrane, Jr. and Tom Kirrane, Sr. show some of the slammer blues (none under 15 lbs.) taken during a trip to Cape Cod last fall. Most of the blues were released. Subscriber photo.

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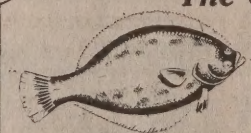

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ing was hot on worm, mussel and clam chum.

Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** told of Saturday's catch for Leo Velazquez and Carl Koenig of Freeport with 40 flounder from 3/4 to 1¼ lb. taken on mussel and worm in Reynolds just west of the bridge in front of the marina. Carl and Henry Puszynski totalled 12 good flatties on bloods at buoys 18 and 19. Walt Kelly, Bob Weigand and Ray Martone hoisted 40 from the buoy 19 Reynolds area. Mussels and worm did the trick with outgoing tide best. Some warm weather would sure give things a boost said Marilyn.

Out of Island Park the open boat **Commodore** had a very good Saturday on the flounder working back creeks for fish mostly in the one pound range. One fish just went over 3 lbs. Clem says fares picked fish all over the bay and some fares had 25 to 30 nice flounder, most fares averaging around 15 fish. Sunday while not as good as Saturday was still very decent all on worm and mussel.

The word out of **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook is of a lot of flounder being caught right through Sunday from all sorts of boats to shore fishermen. Reynolds and the creeks feeding into it have been hot while super hot has been Bay Park and East Rockaway. Chumming from the boats is a main key to success he advised, with of course, worm and mussel bait.

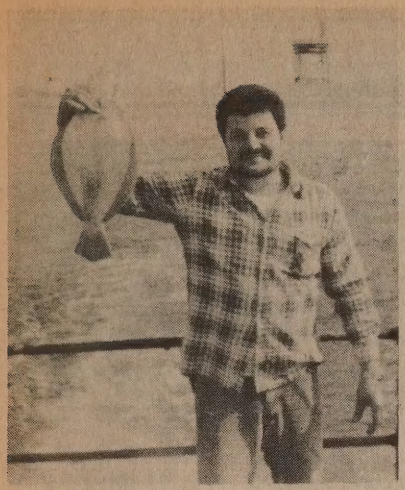
From **Long Beach Sports Marina**, with the fishing station now being managed by Bernie and Connie Haag comes news of some flounder being caught in the back at Duck Point, buoys 17 and 15 and buoy 5 in Reynolds Channel. Chumming is a must said Bernie. Some fish also taken at Magnolia Pier, fish averaging 1 lb. on mussel and worm. The station will be opening up for the season on Saturday.

Down at Atlantic Beach, Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** says that lots of flounder are being caught with a hotspot being Bedel creek, followed by Duck Point and the Island Park railroad trestle. He said the roe seems to be out of the fish and he expects them to be at the Atlantic Beach bridge any day now. Al also told of substantial codfish catches to the tune of 30 to 40 per private boat fishing in 105 to 110 feet of water, S/S/E of Debs Inlet, anchored up and chumming.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Word from **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** in East Rockaway is of absolutely spectacular flounder action constant in Bay Park. It's unbelieveable, said the tackle dealer. Fish are running 3/14 to 1¼ lbs. and there seems to be an unlimited supply of fish. Skip said Swift Creek was also very good in his area. A few fish have also been taken at the Oyster beds and at Duck Point, along with some other scattered catches. The juncture of Hog and Reynolds channels has also been productive.

Sailing out of Howard Beach the open boat **Capt. Mike** had excellent



The last club trip of the '84 season for the Surf and Suds Fishing Club of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn produced this 5.6 lb. fluke for Gaetano Mazza. That's Ambrose Tower in the background.

flounder reports for the week. On Saturdays change of tide in the afternoon Wooden Haven angler Bill Wilson hoisted 42 flounder while John Wrenn of Ozone Park decked 32, Fidel Vega of the Bronx had 35, and Phil Fontana of Ridgewood socked it to 30 flatties. Not to be outdone, Rocco Puglisi of Wood haven had 35 and Al Meditz of Forest Hills stopped at 37. Sunday also saw all day action with all fares ending the day with full buckets. Pools both days went over 2 lbs. Fish were mixed and mostly large on mussel and worm. Many doubles were pulled all day long both days, and action was only 15 minutes from the dock.

Vi at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** on Jamaica Bay said that anglers workin the north channel bridge have had a fair pick on flounder but that the chill weather has been keeping many fishermen in warmer places.

To the west in Sheepshead Bay Neil at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** says that flounder is the thing and the only thing right now, with fish being caught in Jamaica Bay and in the Navesink River. With some decent warm weather, things would really be dynamite said Neil. Here's hoping.

Aboard the **Dorothy B VII**, the flounder action has been very good working the Navesink River this past week and weekend. Novice anglers have been getting 3 to 10 fish a man and experienced flounder pounders have been calling 30 to 40 fish a good day's work. Pools have been taken by 1½ lb. fish with worm and mussel working best at slack tide.

A call from the **Zephyr** relayed the news that during the week catches were decent at the turns of the tide, at the Key and Navesink. Sandy Hook bay is about to start, said Captain Butch. On Sunday's trip, Larry Aloia had 40 flounder to 2 lbs. and Jimmy Smith on Saturday settled for 33

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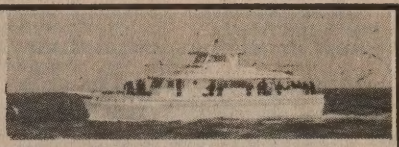

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flounder to 1½ lbs. Fish are generally mixed from 1/2 to 1½ lbs. with best times being 2 hours on either side of both slacks on mussel, worm and clam.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

Despite snotty weather forecasts, relatively mild, calm conditions prevailed in many areas over the weekend. Fishermen who defied the forecasters caught plenty of early flatties from west to east.

WESTERN SOUND

Larry Ricci at **Johns Gun** in **New Rochelle** was still shaking his head about an incredible 25 inch sea flounder brought in to the shop last week. It may well be the biggest flattie ever taken in that area. There were alot of fish over one pound taken in the areas around Glen Island, the park, the Five Corners, and local docks. The Pearsons informed us that the **Klondike VIII** will be making her first trip next Saturday at 8 a.m. and sailing daily thereafter.

Jacks Bait on **City Island** had a very good weekend even though the weather might have been better. Fishing was up and down on the tides with Orchard Beach Lagoon and the

Jim Murphy took this 10 lb. black aboard the City Island based, "North Star." He decked the bulldog with 10 lb. test spinning gear.

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Bridge areas particularly good. Flat fish sizes were typically ¾ to 1½ pounds, tops.

Pete Anderson of the **North Star** told us about small crowds with lots of fish per person. Pete has been following the dredges up in Oyster Bay in 12 foot depths, and says that 40 percent of the flatties are keepers. Getting 30 to 40 flounder per person was possible for sharpies. Pete also notes that there Bridgeport based **Delmar** has been doing well in Huntington Bay, so there are flounder up there as well for the open craft.

John Cacciola at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** called the flounder fishing "great" all the way from the harbor to Bayville with 12 to 18 per person a possibility. Saturday was good off Tappan Beach, and fish average ¾ pounds with occasional large fish to 1½. John advises fishing worms without chum in local waters where the fish are on the move.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

George Valentine at **Four Winds** in **Huntington Station** told us that "Too many local fishermen are suffering from mattress disease. They stay home and listen to the weatherman." In any case there were some excellent reports from Cold Spring Harbor and from the outside of Huntington Bay. Typical flatties are ¾ to ½ pound with 1-1½ pounders not at all unusual. Sizes look good this year, and incoming water is usually better. Billy Collins is still busy working on the **Ever Ready**. Although the boat might be in the water as early as the weekend, she won't be taking fares until she's been checked out and sitting a week.

Bob Cedar at **Huntington Prop** spoke of nice action off Lloyds on thin flounder with some 6 groups of boat fishermen already in the shop on Sunday. Browns Dock and other local docks are also quite good.

Mel at **Greenlawn Sport** told us that a few boats fishing within 100 yards of Asharoken were pulling up to 60 flatties per day per boat. Worms are the bait of choice with 4 flats sold on Sunday alone, but clam chum and skimmers are also available.

For flounders around the daytime clock, the town dock was still the place in Northport, according to Tom Bowman. Most fish were in that ½ to ¾ pound range, and **Bowmans** is carrying a full compliment of bait except for mussels, which will be available when there are more boat fishermen. Sunday hours are 9-2:00.

Dick Brown at **Dicks Sporting Goods** in **Mount Sinai** figured that there were already alot of boaters pursuing flounder in Stony Brook and Mount Sinai Harbors. These are

(Continued on page 55.)

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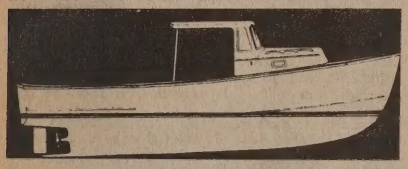

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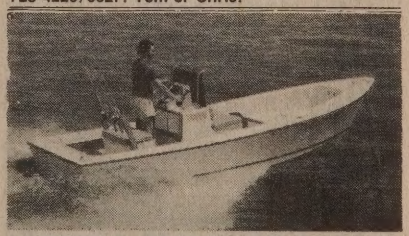

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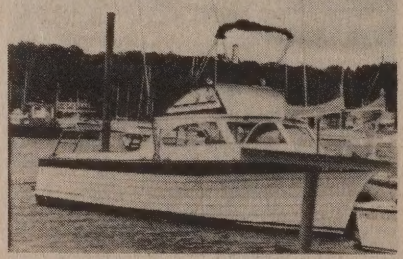

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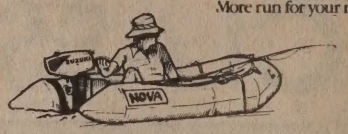


SUZUKI Outboards—MC KEE CRAFT Boats. INFLATABLES: Sea Eagle, Nova & Ampac. Summer dockage—winter storage. KREMER'S BOATYARD, Seaford. 516-221-8877.

23' SEA CRAFT 79 cuddy, 235 hp Evinrude. Full canvas, Loran, recorder, VHF, knotmeter, DF, TT, dual batt. Porta-Potti, outriggers, live well, wash down. Much more. Mint. $19,500. 516-271-0226.

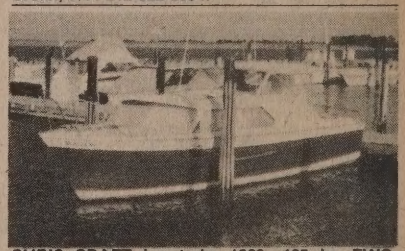
1979 CRUISER 19' center console, trailer, 1981 115 hp Evinrude P/T, CB, recorder. Extras. $5900. 516-423-3714.

SEAWAY BOATS 17-26 center & cuddy. Commercial & Pleasure O/B I/O Inboard. VILLAGE MARINE, 516-298-5800.

RENKEN 80 17' Bowrider, 120 FWC Volvo, w/Galv. trailer, P/Winch, DF, CB, compass. Garage kept. Mint. $6700. 516-795-4269.

31' BERTRAM 1980, twin V-504 diesels. Low hrs. Loaded. Excl. cond. 516-763-2291.

SPRING CLEARANCE SALE
1983 204C Grady White Overnighter, 1983 150 hp Evinrude
1981 22' Grady White Pacific, 170 OMC V-6
1984 24' Grady White offshore, 260 OMC + extras
1984 24' Grady White Tournament, 2.6 litre Sea-Drive
1980 25' Grady White 254 Kingfish, 260 Merc + extras
1983 16' Stingray SS, 120 Merc
1983 17' Stingray R/S, 120 Merc
1983 19' Stingray R/S, 120 Merc
1983 18' Regal, 120 OMC
1981 20' ProLine C/C, 1983 150 hp Johnson. Loaded
1978 23' Penn Yan Open Fisherman, 250 Chry, FWC
1979 24' Winner Family Express, 185 OMC
1976 22' Carver, 188 Merc
1974 15' Chrysler, 1981 35 hp Evinrude
1981 16' Cobia Ski boat
Engines:
1984 115 hp Evinrude-new.
1983 150 hp Evinrude-new X-long
1981 235 hp Evinrude X-long
All new 1985 Evinrudes.
SHELTER COVE MARINA, 610 Clarance Ave., Bronx, NY. 212-822-3054.



CHRIS CRAFT Lapstrake 1963, 185 hp FWC. Galley, stand-up head. Sleeps 4. VHF, CB, AM/FM, twin batt. Trim tabs; much more. Ready for season. $8300. 516-887-2159.

1978 Mercury 7.5 hp Long Shaft elect. starter. Thunderbolt Ign. $425. 718-256-9219.

1975 PENN YAN 26' S.F. Twin Chev. shallow draft, VHF, DF, legal head. Full galley. Extras. Sleeps 4. Great family, fishing. $19,500. 516-957-6892.

1977 STARCRAFT 22' cuddy, 140 Mercruiser I/O. Galv. trailer, elect. winch, CB, compass, DF. Full canvas. Many extras. $7000. Eves: 516-585-7133.

1976 CHRIS CRAFT Lancer 23'. Covers, head, 350 Volvo I/O. Trailer & electronic avail. Excl. cond. $7500. 488-6481.

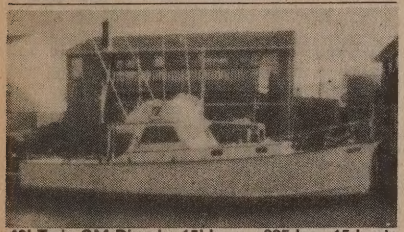
1984 WELLCRAFT 22' 8" Sportsman, twin Yamaha oil injected 115', Loran, chart recorder, VHF, CB, AM/FM Stereo cassette, SW washdown. Like new. Extras. $25,000. 516-796-3549.

FOR SALE: Pair of Chrysler 225 hp FWC engines, tuned up. Good running cond. $3500 pr. In Shinnecock Canal. Bob Rubin, 212-947-2125 Daily.

1974 LUHRS 32' 100% Fiberglass. Sleeps 6. Twin screws. Interior like new. Must sell. $22,500. Eves: 718-769-1809. Day: 718-934-3023.

MAKO 72 17' center console. Well maintained. Bimini top + extras. With 72, 65 hp Evinrude. New batt., plus trailer. $4800. 212-21-0800 or 516-883-8836.

MUST SELL! 1984 28' Chris Craft Catalina Express, 2/230 Mercruiser I/Bs. Under 20 hrs. Sleeps 6. Still under warranty. All fiberglass, Ritchie compass, Unimetrics Seacom VHF/FM radio, deluxe camper canvas, Si-Tex depth finder, fume detector, auto. fire extinguisher in bilge. Dockside power, T/T, hour meters, 115V/12V refrig., stove-2 burner alcohol/elec. Head w/ shower & sink. Teak swim platform, hot & cold water, dual wipers, Olin flare kit. Extra 12V outlet, more, more. Boat documented. Must sell. Wife not into boating. Only $43,500. Boat on No. Fork of L.I. 212-696-1963. Wknds: 516-765-3060.



40' Twin GM Diesels, 15' beam. 235 hrs; 15 knots at 5 gph. Full galley/head salon. All refurbished 5-84. Loran, recorder, VHF, CB, dual sta. Chair, outriggers, power winch, 2 gin poles, spreader lights. Never fished. Must be seen to believe. Boat like just built. $34,990. 623-3537.

23' CORRECT CRAFT center console I/B. T-top, canvas, electronics. Offshore rigged. Trailer. $17,000. Eves: 516-399-2681.

FOR SALE: Twin Mercruiser I/Bs, 325 hp FWC, 1:5-1 transmissions, wiring harnesses, gauges incl. In good cond. Will sell separately 201-473-5685.

CHRYSLER Diesel, CM6-55TI, 200 hp Turbo, twin disc 502 gear, 100 hrs. 8D batt. Excl. cond. $4500. Eves: 289-4277.

Save on your next Sportfisherman. Great selection at South Florida prices. NAUTICAL SERVICES YACHT SALES, 305-832-3230.

1977 18' SEA CRAFT Sportfisherman, 115 hp Evinrude. New 3000 lb. galvanized Calkins EZ roller. Wk. nights & wknds: 324-0815.

1982 MAKO 258 cuddy, twin 150 Evinrudes-SST props. Loran, VHF, CB, water temp, digital depth, white line, stereo, fight chair, 7 rod holders, Ritchie compass. Anchor + 500' nylon line. Lee outriggers, washdown system, custom made storage/seats, 2 bilge pumps, 151 gal. main gas tank, 50 gal. aux. tank. Windshield wiper, swing-out electrical panel, hyd. steering, Navy top. In water. $29,500. Days: 516-627-4390. Eves: 516-798-6976.

LIKE NEW
33' CONCORDE Custom refinished & updated in '83. Only thing original is her hull. Completely rigged for the serious fisherman or cruising. Work & equip. too numerous to list. Call for details. $58,000. Days: 516-744-1707. Eves: 516-587-4029.

BOAT ONLY—80 Proline 17' Center Console. Stainless lined fish box, chart sounder. Highlander trailer. $3100. 516-669-0443.

1984 BOSTON WHALER 15' center console, 70 hp Yamaha. Trailer. Must sell. Asking $6500. 718-630-4371 days/273-3385.

STARCRAFT 15½' 1974. Meticulously cared for. All fiberglass Bowrider w/1984 Mercury 60 hp O/B. Full 6' beam. Lots of space. New Navy top, side curtains, full mooring cover + extras. Very safe & stable for family or fishing. Asking $4650. 914-381-2736 Lower Westchester.

FOR SALE: 1982 200 hp Evinrude engine. Low hours. $3500 + $200 winter storage charge. 718-625-3921.

15' TRAVEL MATE House Trailer. Sleeps 4-5. Dinette, couch plus 1 drop-down kitchen; gas stove oven refrigerator, sink. Heater, bathroom sink shower. Lg. closet & many storage compartments. Lg. canopy too. $2000. 516-421-4748.

34' DOCUMENTED Charter Boat, twin FWC 318 Chryslers compl. rebuilt. All marine parts new. Fully equip. All electronics fully guaranteed. Full Bimini Encl. 3 chairs—1 Rockaway w/foot rest. Compl. re-fastened 1984. Hull & engine guaranteed. Buying bigger boat. Bargain. $10,000 or best offer. Full winter cover. Fully rigged for fishing. CAPT. JOE MC BRIDE, 516-588-1227/668-5995.

JOHNSON Outboards—new 1984 Leftover specials-185 hp $4600. Complete w/controls & VRO. SCOTTY'S MARINA, Pt. Lookout, 516-432-4665.

1982 GRADY WHITE 224 Offshore, 225 Mercury OB. Very clean. Low hrs. Apelco radio & chart recorder. Full loaded. Price to sell. $18,500. Eves: 914-476-3370.

38' 1979 BERTRAM Flybridge convertible, lower steering sta., 555 Cummings, 875 hrs; 7.5 KW Onan radar, VHF, depth, log, fish finder. Never fished. Good cruising boat. Not rigged for fishing. $150,000. Call Al Lunt, 305-832-5868.

22' MANNINO Cuddy, 470 Mercruiser I/O; 50 hrs. Depthfinder, knotmeter, VHF. Loaded; excl. cond. $9900. Days: 516-581-8805.

1983 25' 4 MAKO CC, 235 hp Evinrude '83. Bimini, canvas cuddy, 200 gal. fuel. Si-Tex recorder, Loran, VHF. Too many options to list. Perfect cond. $23,000. 516-324-2955.

1980 SEA CRAFT 23 Sceptre cuddy. Last boat built by original SeaCraft. Purchased late 1981. Twin 225 hp Mercurys, SS props, Nelco Loran, Mecca paper & digital recorder. Standard Horizon, VHF, Ritchie compass, Pompanette fighting chair, T/T, Morse controls, hyd. steering, 5 rod holders, outriggers. Full gauges. New Bimini top, plus new canvas top, side curtains, drop curtains. Also new mooring cover from windshield to motors. Teak rod racks. Less than 200 hrs. on motors. Everything like new. Boat in water; will Demo. $25,000. 516-536-2382.

1980 YUKON Delta 26 Houseboat Fiberglass, 140 Volvo Penta Eng & drive. FWC, Flybridge. Fully equip. $9500. 718-389-4622.

MUST SELL—NEW BOAT ARRIVED
18' LARSON, Fiber, 85 hp Evinrude. New gas tank & controls installed 1984. O/B & boat both in excl. cond. Maintenance free. Many extras. Asking $2250. After 6PM: 718-649-2477.

Must sell: 44' Charter Boat certified 34 + 2 passengers. 671 diesel, flush deck. $12,500. Days: 215-688-3293. Nights W/E: 516-599-1232.

1976 APPOLO 24' 175 OMC, Formula hull. Overhead radio box, VHF, CB, Loran, depth finder, SW temp, washdown, dual batt. Night lights, outriggers. Much more. Must sell. New boat coming. Best offer. Days: 516-546-1300. Night: 718-241-5052.

21' STARCRAFT 1981 center console, Evinrude 135 hp, Shoreline trlr; CB, DF, swim platform. Much more. Very clean, fast fishing boat. 516-331-9320.

1977 MACKIE 21' cabin. New 350 Merc I/O, power trim, VHF, CB, DF. Full canvas. Dual batt., swim platform, outriggers. New Teleflex steering. 79 EZ Loader trlr. & more. $8500. 718-639-6135.

FOR SALE: 2 Used 215 hp Merc-Cruisers I/B. Compl. or will divide for parts. Eves: 516-979-6086

1975 18' GARVEY, 135 hp Evinrude. Self-bailing, side console, Teleflex steering, CB, compass, SST prop, T/T. In water. $2200. 516-735-3053.

20' WELLCRAFT center console, deep V hull, new canvas. New DF, CB & more. Mint. Needs motor. $5400. Eves: 718-376-2796.

20' BERTRAM Bahia Mar. Excl. cond. Repowered 1983. New anchor windlass, chart recorder, radio & swim platform. 516-354-8707. $6500. 516-868-7115.

ELECTRONICS: VHF, CB, Outriggers, 40' Bridge release-$700. Mufflers 6"-Offers. Deck Box, big one. 516-728-6627.

22' CHRIS CRAFT Cutlass w/cuddy, head, FWC 302 Ford. Needs work. $3000. Can be seen at Amity Harbor Marine. 589-7762 betw. 6 & 8PM Daily Only.

BOATING EQUIP.

KING 1984 Chart recorder, model 1350, Loran interface. Mint. No transducer. $450. Jack, 718-631-0351 or 516-354-8464 11AM to 2PM.

MARINE BATTERY CHARGERS
Photovoltaic 12VDC generating/charging systems for marine electronics & appliances. for Free info & magnetic chart holder write or call: SUN ARRAYED, INC., Box 372, Roslyn Hts., NY 11577; 516-625-3041.

ELLIOT Inflatable 15-man Life Raft. Model 3A. USCG approved & inspected. Value: $8000. Asking: $3500. 712-448-2474.

CUSTOM MADE Fighting Chair. Recently completed 100% teak & stainless steel. 516-541-5753.

4 KW Onan gas generator; 60 hrs. Excl. cond. $2800. CAPT. JOE, 516-889-2050.

BOAT TRAILERS: EZ Loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate Del. Priced right. SEAHORSE TRAILER, Glen Head, NY 516-676-5313.

ELECTRONICS For Sale: Meca chart recorder 415 D, digital display w/bronze transducer. Used 1 season. Sacrifice-$225. Si-Tex Digital depth finder w/alarm D L I. Factory services-$120. 516-579-4584.

WANTED: Sliding Hatch Cover for 1972 23' Chris Craft Lancer. 516-271-9262.

ROCKAWAY FIGHTING Chair w/cushions; post & foot rest. $250. 516-735-5204.

CUSTOM MARINE WOODWORK. No Job Too Small—tackle lockers, instrument enclosures, consoles, bow pulpits, etc. Interior & exterior repairs & restorations. CUSTOM MARINE CARPENTRY, 516-623-1639.

GEMTRONICS Chart recorder, Model G.T.103: white line w/flasher, transducer. Instruction book. Zero hours since factory service. $185. Eves: 212-324-4627.

WINTER SPECIAL
Don't wait till spring, get repairs, glass replaced & seats recovered. Bring in now; 20% winter discount. FOREAN KUSTOM CANVAS, 549-9489.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem Axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 B'way, Woodside, NY. 718-426-7039.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG., INC., 1121-16 Lincoln Av, Holbrook, NY 11741. 516-563-2263.

RADAR, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS, INC., 377 Woodcleft Av, Freeport, NY. 516-623-4421.

WELDING, Tee-Tops, towers, tanks, arches. Aluminum, stainless, castings, repairs, fabrication. Best rates. Reliable. 581-4205.

Continued On Next Page

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

BOAT OWNERS: Full set covers. Navy top, side curtains, back drops. Frames not included. To 22'. First quality Chrysler vinyl. $285. FOREAN KUSTOM, 549-9489.

TRAILER HITCHES—The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock on Long Island. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

WANTED: Tandem Trailer for 20' boat. Galvanized w/brakes, 3000 lb. capacity. 516-872-3195.

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FOR SALE: Orvis Graphite Fly Rod, 4-pc. All Rounder, 8'. Orvis Battenkill reel, extra spool, WF-7-F & WF-7-S lines. 2 compl. trout fly collections in 2 Wheatley fly boxes. Excl. cond. $500. Mike Conklin, 516-785-2921.

GLADDING South Bend pole 6' 6" IGFA glass 50-80 w/roller guides. Penn #349 Master Mariner w/full wire spool. Penn #113 Senator. $60. 718-256-9219.

6' PENN 80 lb. line. Shark tuna rod, Aftco guides-$85. 2 - 4' Penn 50 lb. dacron tuna trolling rods-$65 ea. Flying gaff wood shaft-$45. 516-798-2025.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounder are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig especially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design & construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made finest quality material. 3 completely tied rigs for $3.90. Send check or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566. Our 13th year.

LARGEST ROD BUILDING & LURE BUILDING component parts catalog. 60 pages, 2800 items. $1 refundable 1st order. PFEIFFER'S TACKLE CRAFTERS, 14303 Robcaste Rd., Dept. TF/I, Phoenix, MD 21131.

PENN Fishing reels, Jigmaster 500S. $25 each. After 6:30PM: 516-437-6712.

DEADLY FLOUNDER RIGS
Tangle-free, tandem tied w/special stand-off knot. Used by sharpies. Sproat hooks for more hook-ups. 3/$3.75 inc. p/h. BILL SMITH, 158 Vermont Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706.

FISHING TACKLE Garage Sale: New & used—fresh & salt. Rods, reels, line, lures, electronics, electric motors, etc. March 30-31, 9AM-3PM. Call 201-334-8059 for directions.

ROD COMPONENTS—Tremendous inventory: blanks, seats, butts, grips, guides, tops, etc. All name brands. "Lowest possible prices." Free instructions. LON WANSER BAIT & TACKLE, 3818 Merrick Rd., Seaford, NY 11783. 516-785-1138.

WANTED: Fenwick Trolling rod 50# traditional brown. Discontinued model 640 only. Good cond. a must. 212-222-3325.

CATCH MORE FISH—with superior designed saltwater rigs. Send for Free Catalog now! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, NJ 07032.

CUSTOM FISHING RODS built; rods repaired, guides rewrapped. We build rods to match the reel and fish! Eves: 516-794-7299/1992.

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FOR SALE: two 50 lb. Custom Rods w/Daiwa 600H reels & new dacron line. Asking $450. 718-780-0664.

2 Fin-Nor 12/0 Specials w/Ande & 2 Fin-Nor 130# poles: 1 bent, 1 straight. $2800. 1 80# graphite pole; bent butt, custom. $500. 201-941-4285

EDELMAN'S—EDELMAN'S—EDELMAN'S
Huge inventory ... cheapest prices. 7 Days. See ad Page 2.

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SURF FISHING GUIDE & TUTOR
Personalized Surf Fishing Instruction with LIF Editor & Surf Fishing columnist, Fred Golofaro. North & South Shores, Montauk. One or two anglers—day & night trips. All tackle supplied. 516-581-0077.

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EXPERIENCED P/T Boat & Motor sales person. Weekends to start. Future opportunities. Scotty's Marina, Pt. Lookout, 516-432-4665.

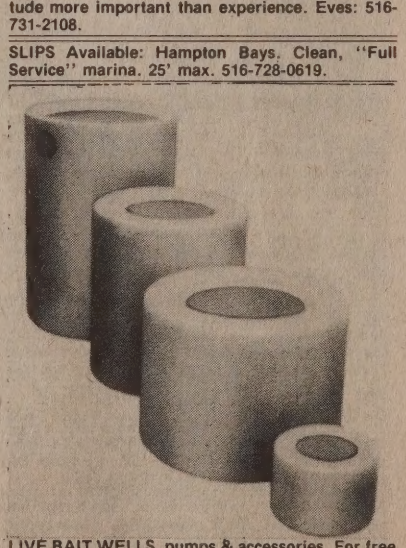
CAUTION—NOT FOR EVERYONE! Each fillet knife is 100% handmade by a custom knifemaker in U.S. Blade steel is #1095 carbon spring steel, not stainless, Rockwell 55-57c, which will take & keep an edge that till now you thought was impossible. Top of every blade has razor sharp saw, approx. 2", for bone cutting etc. Has safety grip Pakkawood handle & handcrafted heavy leather sheath. A superior product the result of 1-yr. of design research & field testing by expert sport & commercial fisherman. Act now; very limited handmade production. Order from exclusive distributor. 7" blade-$23.95; 10" blade-$26.95; 12" blade-$29.95 +$2.50 for shipping. No C.O.D.s. For credit card orders, same day shipment, call toll free 1-800-247-2511. In NYS, 516-491-5764 or mail orders to: MORTY THE KNIFE MAN, Box 7, Little Neck, NY 11363. NY residents add sales tax.

FISH IDENTIFICATION CHART—shows 85 salt & fresh water species native to East Coast. Lithographed in beautiful, lifelike color on heavy, coated stock. suitable for framing: 36"x24". Send CK or M.O. for $9.95 + $1 p/h to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

FISHERMEN Wanted to share expenses & catch. Boat at Montauk. Flounder & cod. Eves: 516-671-7690.

MATE NEEDED—Seaford based open boat. Attitude more important than experience. Eves: 516-731-2108.

SLIPS Available: Hampton Bays. Clean, "Full Service" marina. 25' max. 516-728-0619.



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CAPTAIN/MATE—WANTED:
Full time—Mid-May to mid-November. 45' Fully rigged Sportfish. Freeport based. Experience & references a must. Dr. A: 718-626-0499.

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1970 CHEVY WAGON, 350, Posi Rear, air shocks, tranny cooler, Tom Cash Class II Hitch. Big die-hard, air cond. Oil changed every 2000 mi. Strong stable tow car. $450 or best offer. 516-698-7981. Selden.

PART TIME POSITION WANTED as 2ND Mate. Fridays & Saturdays. Salary neg. More interested in logging time towards Captain's license. After 3PM: 516-369-0879.

MATE SEEKS Position on charter boat. Experienced w/references. Maintenance skills. 516-691-5208.

END THE GUESSWORK: Weigh those fish! Finally, a highly accurate, compact scale. Constructed of rust free aluminum & chrome. Each quality scale individually calibrated. A must for serious fishermen! Specify 4 lb, 10 lb, or 20 lb. capacity. Money back guarantee. Send $19.95 + $2 p/h to: BASS UNLIMITED, 4400 Jericho Tpke, Jericho, NY 11753.

WALT'S WALKERS are over-the-shoe, boot or wader quality, heavy duty rubbers w/12 hardened steel cleats. A must for jetty & ice fishermen & rock stream fishing. Dealer inquiries invited. Avail. at Freddie's & Johnny's, Montauk Pt.; Beckmann's Tackle, Lynbrook. WALT'S WALKERS, P.O. Box 32, Manahawkin, NJ 08050; 609-597-5618.

1972 PONTIAC LeMans V8. Clean. Perfect running cond. Low mileage. $2000 Final. 718-259-4291

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HAVE 15' Boat, Trailer. Desire Old-Salt fishing companion. Knowledge local waters, techniques. Central Suffolk. Days: 516-698-5470.

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Have your boat polished now. Be the envy of your friends with the look of a brand new boat. Free estimates. 665-2271.

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HOUSE PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

GREAT GIFT IDEA! Solid cast metal fish belt buckles. Avail. fluke, blue, striper, flounder, tuna, porgy, shark, harpoon dart. Also avail. striped bass pin. $6.95 ea. Send ck. or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpk, Merrick, NY 11566

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REAL ESTATE WANTED
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2 Bulkheaded canal front parcels-$83,500 each.
Walk to your deeded boat slip from this large 3BR, 3Bth Ranch on 1/2 acre-$195,000.
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Rent Duck Key furnished Condo. Sleeps 4. Walk to fishing boats. 516-589-7005.

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Montauk Harbor—boat, fish. New luxury apt. Sleeps 4; VHF base sta. Slip available. Pool, sauna. No smoking. Week; month; season. Eves: 516-671-7063.

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shallow water flatties and you "chum the hell out of them." Most of the customers of the **Complete Angler** in **Miller Place** were shoreline anglers who were working around the beaches and harbors. The shop has sands, bloods, and clams, but no mussels yet.

NORTH FORK

Phil Loria and one other diehard fished out of **Captain Marty's** on Friday and found the early flatties right where they should be, in the South Race on the last of the flood. Fish were males to 15 inches and 1½ lbs. and it took two chum pots plus a lot of pounding on the bottom to get them started in 39 degree water. Dominic DeRanieri, where are you now that the Peconics are about to break loose?

George at **Warrens** in Aquebogue felt that the mouth of the Peconic River and buoy 9 in Great Peconic Bay were good spots to start looking for flatties from 3/4 to 1 pound. Roughly 25 fish per boat per day was the norm.

Dan Buckley of the **Nancy Ann II** called to say that he'd been sampling the local waters with his mate during the fine weekend weather. The fish were slow starting until the tide ran and patience was required, but 30 fish for a pair of pros was no problem off Conklins Point. The open boat starts on a regular basis this weekend out of Mitchells.

On the Mattituck Inlet scene, Charlie Caraftis was working on the shop and has skiffs in the water at the **Mattituck Fishing Station** on Saturday in anticipation of the season's opening this weekend. He'll be sending out some scouts to check things out. Bob Ceglowski was busy with his hands putting the finishing touches on the **Captain Bob.**

The **Brand X, Peconic Star** and **Blue Albatross** will all be sailing this coming weekend and Dave Brennan is setting up the first meeting of the season of the **North Shore Party Boat Association** on Sunday, March 31 at 5PM.

Jay DeMott boated this 25 lb. chinook salmon during a fall trip to Lake Ontario. He fished with Captain Bill Johnson of "Odyssey Charters."

Freshwater REPORT
with Tom Schlichter

Freshwater action around the Island remained steady this past week as anglers prepared for the April 1st opening of the trout season. A few sea run trout are still cruising the brackish waters of south shore tidal creeks and panfishing, in general, has been pretty good.

Mike Nicoletti of **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in **Wantagh**, was quite enthused with the quality of crappie fishing at Twin Lake. According to Mike, killie or worm baits were accounting for fish up to 14 inches in length. Carp fishing has been good as well, with anglers using corn or bread ball baits on fish up to 7 lbs.

From **J & R Sport Shop** in **Oakdale**, Rod DiGiacomo spoke of an 18 inch rainbow pulled from Bubbles Falls on Sunday morning by one of the local youths. Mike Dentici also got on the phone long enough to tell me that he took a 2¼ lb. brownie from the brackish waters of the Connetquot River also on Sunday morning. The big trout hit a small white bucktail with a pink head.

At Connetquot River State Park, Bill Bergen reported that some fine action was had with brook trout from 1 to 1½ lbs. over the past week. A few larger rainbow and brown trout have also been taken. A hatch of small stone flies has helped spur all the activity and small grey or brown flies which resemble these have been responsible for taking most of the fish.

From **J & J Bait and Tackle** of **Patchogue**, the news from Paul Graniello is that there is still good fishing for yellow perch available in the Mill Pond. Sea run trout action has slowed as have white perch catches from the tidal creeks. Paul asked me to pass on that he is well stocked with nightcrawlers and freshwater supplies for the April 1st trout opener.

Bill Johnson of **Odyssey Charters** in **Rochester, NY** informed me that the action on brown trout in Lake Ontario has begun to heat up as the fish are moving into the five or six foot depths near shore. Lots of 3 to 5 lb. fish available but you have to fish in the warm water locations. Look for sandy bottoms, which heat up first, to hold the most trout. Green or orange Rapalas and Bill Norman lures have been the hot items. Most of the action is centered east of Irondequoit Bay. A few big steelhead have also been reported taken from the Irondequoit River. Bill told me that Ed Kern weighed in a 21 lber. this week.

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